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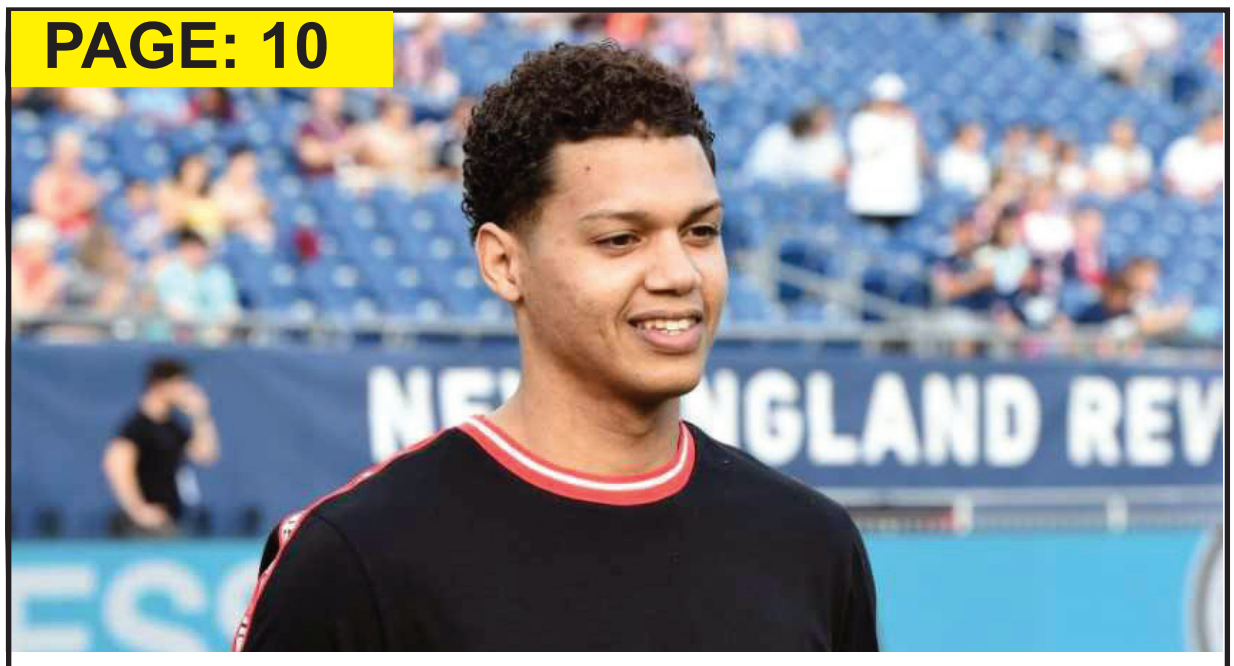
Hometown Hero Kevin Venderhorst

PAGE: 10



In 2016, Lawrence's Kevin Vanderhorst received the Valley Patriot BASH Scholarship. This month, he was honored by the New England Revolution as a hometown hero. Read why on Page 10.

INDEX

Al Kaprielian Page 5

Vets.....1, 8,10, 12
Editorial-News.....2
Methuen.....2,5,12,15
Haverhill.....2
North Andover.....3, 25
Lawrence.....6,10,13,17,19,21
Dracut.....6
Notebook.....8-9
Salisbury/Hampton/Nbpt.....16, 19
NH.....17
Religion/Culture Wars.....20
Music/TV.....21
Books.....22
Teens/Health.....23/24
Real Estate.....26-27

IN YOUR CORNER Senator DIZOGLIO PAGE 12

Linda Dean Campbell State Rep. PAGE 12

TV TALK w. Bill Cushing PAGE 21

FREDDIE SAYS PAGE 9

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Valley Patriots of the Month

IWO JIMA'S DE FUSCO AND HYDER; TWO MEN SERVING ON SACRED GROUND

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

LAWRENCE , METHUEN - Lawrence's Anthony De Fusco 97, and Methuen's Henry Hyder 92, did not know each other until they both recently moved into the same assisted living facility, Methuen Village. However, they share a common bond, both men served on Iwo Jima during World War II. Henry with the Naval Construction Battalions, also known as Seabees. Tony was in the 4th Marine Division, Iwo Jima was Tony's and the 4th Marines, fourth invasion in the Pacific Theater of the War.

Henry attended high school at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. He was drafted shortly after graduating from Phillips. Tony left Lawrence High before graduating and spent the entire war in the Pacific with the US Marines. After the war, Tony became a US Post Office Clerk working in both the "old" and "new" Lawrence US Post Offices. Henry attended Boston University, and after Boston University, Law school, then going into private Law practice in Methuen. His Methuen practice is still open, now run by one of his sons.

Tony has two brothers and a sister; his wife died a few years ago. Tony also has a daughter, who is a nurse, two sons who are in construction, with six grandchildren. Although his Commanding Officer had not yet told him, he was a Sargent in the US Marine Corp on the day he was wounded on the Black Sand beaches of Iwo Jima. Tony spoke very fondly of his commanding officer, a US Marine Corp Major Samuel R Petite, who was later killed on Iwo Jima. Tony was able to revisit those same beaches over 30 years ago and pay his respects to those who did not come home.

Henry has two sons, a doctor and a lawyer, four granddaughters and a grandson, he is fortunate enough to have his wife still with him. He is very proud that his son has kept his family law firm open.

Tony (with the rest of the 4th Marines) participated in the invasions of Kwajalein, Tinian, Saipan, and Iwo Jima as an infantryman. Henry worked as a Construction Electrician with the Seabees, repairing the three captured Japanese Air strips on Iwo Jima. These airstrips were vital to our success in the air war against Japan.

Both men enjoyed golf, Tony playing at Hickory Hill GC and Merrimack GC, once getting a hole in one at Hickory Hill GC. Henry never got a hole in one, however, he recalls that he enjoyed playing at the Andover Country Club with friends and clients.

Tony was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Henry, like his father before him, was a Mason. We had a nice discussion on the need for young men to be more engaged today in their communities, and how today's young adults should join civic organizations such as the Knights and the Masons.

Tony talked of going to the Lawrence Boy's Club as a youth and being a member of the "Plainsmen Association" as a young man. In the 1960s urban renewal

HERO: PAGE 23

Why Not Just Let Them All Die?

In the process of posting breaking news on The Valley Patriot Facebook and Twitter pages we often encounter reader comments that evoke serious emotion, discussion, and debate.

Earlier this month, we posted a story of the Lawrence Fire Dept. searching for a reported overdose victim off Manchester Street. First responders searched for the overdose victim so they could administer the drug NARCAN, a substance that literally brings someone back to life after taking a deadly dose of heroin. Eventually they learned that another addict had administered NARCAN and the OD victim went on their way.

Several of our readers took the position that we should not be wasting the time, money, and resources of our police and fire to bring heroin addicts back to life.

"Why not just let them die? They are just going to go out and do it again," one reader opined.

Still others chimed in saying that those who choose to take drugs are not worth keeping alive, as they are a constant drain on our community, commit crimes, and obviously don't want to get clean anyway.

It's a view that is all too common as our culture struggles to deal with an opioid epidemic that is transforming even the most affluent communities into havens for drug dealers, homelessness, and crime.

Why not let them die?

It's true that most of the homeless addicts (and even the non-homeless addicts) do not want to get help. They are so physically dependent on the heroin or fentanyl, that food and water become secondary needs to getting their next fix.

We see it all too often as police officers sometimes have to administer NARCAN to the same individuals over and over on a daily basis, only to have them go right back out searching again for their next high.

If you talk to most of these individuals they will tell you outright they do not want to go to detox, they do not want to get clean, and they do not want to change the direction of their lives. They just want to get high.

It's a hard fact to wrap your head around, but it only shows the power that heroin and fentanyl have over their minds and bodies.

What we also learn when we talk to these addicts over a period of time, however, is that they are not willing to get help or change their lifestyle ... RIGHT NOW.

At some point, every addict hits rock bottom where they realize they cannot do it anymore. They will then either - kill themselves - or make the decision to reach out to someone for help.

Using NARCAN to bring a dead addict back to life gives these individuals one more day to make that decision. It gives them one more day of life to - maybe - hit rock bottom so they will finally be ready to get clean.

It's frustrating for the families, the police, the fire departments, the EMTs, the hospital workers, and the volunteers in our communities who try every day to get these people the help they need. It's even more frustrating for the uneducated public who bear the expense and the societal effects of so many heroin and fentanyl addicts plaguing their communities.

But, these are human beings. They are someone's daughters, sons, husbands, mothers, fathers, and sadly grandfathers.

As a community we surely need to do a better job trying to prevent people from taking heroin and other addictive drugs in the first place. But, where we fail to do so, we must also do a better a job of understanding the incredible grip these drugs have over a person's mind and body.

We have to have patience. And if that means administering NARCAN 100 times before a person is ready to get clean, then that is what we have to do. What's more, we have to understand that most addicts fail at rehab half a dozen times before they finally get clean. Failure only means they need to try again. And they need our help to do so. We have to let the addicts know that while they are not ready to change, RIGHT NOW … when they are ready, help is available.

Sure it's easy to say, 'let them die'.

But, we shouldn't be willing to throw these lives away simply because it is easier for the rest of us - simply because it will save money and resources.

Every life is precious. No matter how hard it is to get the addicts to see the value of their own lives. We have to keep trying!

Otherwise, what have we become as a society? ◊

Methuen Resident Graduates from Notre Dame Academy

Tyngsboro, MA – On June 1st, the Academy of Notre Dame (NDA) held its 165th Upper School Commencement Ceremony. Among the students who received their diplomas from the private, all-girls Catholic high school in Tyngsboro, was one young woman from Methuen.

Julie Getchell held numerous leadership roles at the Academy, as co-president of National Honor Society, coordinator of Junior Retreat, and sound manager for Drama Guild. She was also a member of Spanish Honor Society, 1804 Society, Student Council, Destination Imagination, Yearbook Club, and the school newspaper, Damies' Digest.

Athletically, Getchell was captain of the volleyball team and participated on the softball and tennis teams.

At the Academy's Baccalaureate service on May 30th, she received a National Honor Society Award.

This fall, Getchell plans on studying nursing at Regis College with a full, four-year renewable scholarship.

The Class of 2019, composed of 36 students, earned a cumulative of more than $8 million in renewable, merit-based scholarships. 100% of the class was accepted to 90 colleges and universities across the U.S., Canada and Ireland. More than fifty percent of the class report that they will major in STEM related fields. ◊

Leedell Graham was arraigned in Haverhill District Court on June 28, 2019 on one count of murder for allegedly killing former Groveland building inspector Patsy Schena. (WHAV News photograph)

Accused Schena Murderer's Haverhill Criminal Past Includes Drugs, Passing Fake Money

By Allison Corneau | WHAV.NET

In the nine months before Haverhill's Leedell Graham was arrested for the murder of former Groveland building inspector Patsy Schena, Haverhill Police picked him up on two separate occasions for dealing cocaine and passing a counterfeit $100 bill, WHAV can exclusively reveal.

While living on Beach Street in the city's Mount Washington neighborhood, Graham was sentenced to six months behind bars after trying to use a fake $100 bill to purchase a "Natty Daddy" beer and Game Green Cigars at Riley's Corner Market. According to Haverhill Police Officer Justin Graham (no relation), Graham said he found the bill while walking to the market. The eagle-eyed clerk knew right away it was a fake.

"The bill was of poor quality and the average person upon seeing the numerous Chinese symbols and inaccuracies of the counterfeit bill, as well as the feel of the paper, could tell the bill was counterfeit," Officer Graham said in his police report from the incident on Sept. 4, 2018.

Three months later, on Dec. 15, 2018, the Haverhill Police Gang Unit encountered Graham in the midst of a drug deal on the city's White Street. Originally charged with one count of drug distribution, Graham picked up another charge of defacing property when, according to Officer Adam Durkee, he "spit a white substance all over the rear seat and door of the police cruiser," while being transported to the Bailey Boulevard station.

Graham, living on Portland Street at the time of that arrest, was ordered to spend six months behind bars for those offenses.

Both his September and December 2018 cases were heard by Haverhill District Court First Justice Stephen Abany, the same judge who ordered him held without bail on June 28 on one count of murder after Groveland Police say he brutally killed Schena.

A State Police investigation—coupled with evidence found by passersby less than a mile from Schena's home—led officials to determine Schena's death was the result of "blunt and sharp force trauma." The murder weapon is believed to be a lamp.

The men are said to have known each other through business dealings not related to Schena's former role as Groveland's town building inspector, a role he held from 1979-2015.

Graham next appears in court in August.

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NORTH ANDOVER

Brian Jakimczyk of Your CBD Store at 73 Main St. in North Andover offers help for people with common ailments using CBD oils.

CBD Oil Won't Get You High But Will Make You Feel Better

Downtown North Andover has gone through an amazing revitalization in the last two years.

As part of a series focusing on the new and improved downtown, we spoke with Brain Jakimczyk owner of Your CBD Store at 73 Main Street about his CBD Products. Brian also has stores in Reading and Tewksbury.

What is CBD? Is it marijuana? Some people think you can get high on CBD? Is it safe, and what do you use it for?

"CBD oil does not come from marijuana as you think of it. The CBD that we sell comes from industrial hemp, which is the male form of marijuana that does not flower.

Kids do not smoke it to get high. There's very little THC in most CBD products and in our product there is zero THC because we've removed it.

CBD has targeted uses for things like, full body inflammation, pain, arthritis, anxiety, depression, and insomnia. A wide range of things can be targeted with this plant.

CBD is a derivative of industrial hemp as I said, and can be purchased legally in Massachusetts with no licenses no prescriptions, and it is sold over the counter.

Some of the things that people will say to us after using CBD is that the pain has been dialed back. If they have bad knees, or arthritis, they come back into the store and say we are sleeping better, or 'I've noticed some of my anxiety is gone', so there's a lot of positive attributes to including CBD oil as part of your daily regimen.

There's nothing in the store that will get you high. You can eat and drink everything here, and you will never get high.

It's just something for people who want help without the high, and that's what we sell.

Does it work for everyone?

It doesn't work for the entire population, no. It's important to note that you can't say to somebody 'here, this CBD is going to make your anxiety go away'.

Everybody's a little bit different. There is a certain percentage of the population who do not respond to CBD products. Just like there's a certain percentage of the population who don't make their own cholesterol, or are left-handed.

So, we don't know who those people are. We don't claim to know who they are or that this will help everyone.

We do give out free samples every day here at the store and we invite people to come into the store and try some.

Brian says that CBD oil works within five minutes to alleviate pain or anxiety.

"And the best part is, you can try for yourself before you buy.

Your CBD Store at 73 Main Street in North Andover is open 11AM to 7PM every day except for Monday. They also have a store at 87 Main St, Reading, MA 01867 You can call them at 978-552-3545 their website is www.yourcbdstorema.com ◊

Summer Brings Artisan Market to North Andover

The Artisan Market at the Mills was an idea born out of the North Andover Farmers' Market. The North Andover Merchant's Association launched the first Farmer's Market in 2017. Vendors included farmers, food purveyors, and local artisans. The interest from the crafters in the Market's inaugural year sparked the idea to bring local artisans together in their own space. The first Artisan Market at the Mills took place in June 2018 with extraordinary crowds.

A committee led by Sally Finnimore, a North Andover resident and local artisan, worked for months to establish the event as a high-quality, juried gathering of artisans. For each market, craftsmen and artists are categorized and evaluated on their products and presentations. In its 2018 debut, the Artisan Market showcased more than 100 artisans and in 2019, the committee assessed over 200 applications. This year's markets will feature jewelry, pottery, handbags, soaps and personal products, woodwork, metalwork, and more. In addition, there will be food trucks and entertainment for children. Back by popular demand, free hayrides sponsored by several area businesses will be provided for patrons between the Farmer's Market and the Artisan Market. The committee is also proud to engage with volunteers from local non-profits that help the artisans set up.

This year's Artisan Market at the Mill is held at 50 High Street in North Andover, between 10 AM and 2 PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month from June through September (June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, and September 15th). Each Market is a rain or shine event and coincides with the North Andover Farmers' Market, held on First and Main in North Andover.

Sponsors for the Artisan Market at the Mills include the North Andover Merchants Association, RCG, and the East and West Mills. ◊

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"WEATHER 101" WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to July with the summer season in full swing.

July is known as the hottest month of the year. Time will tell if it lives up to its expectations this year. The ocean waters will continue to warm as we go through the month of July.

Recapping June, we did see warmer temperatures compared to May. There were still some days when rain occurred. Boston got around five inches for the month, which was 1.42 inches above normal.

Worcester averaged below normal and this shows you now that we are into summer. Not all areas get an equal amount of rain.

During the summer some areas can get heavy rain in a brief period of time and a short distance away could stay dry. This is not like a winter storm when more of a widespread area gets rain/snow.

During June some locations saw their first 90-degree temperature on Friday June 28th. Boston Logan Airport did not reach 90 degrees on June 28th nor did it for the entire month of June.

As we went through the later part of June, the Bermuda high pressure system off the east coast started to build and had more of an influence on our weather. In June there was more severe weather and tornadoes over Texas and the plain states.

This was caused due to the clash of two different air masses, hot humid air against cooler less humid air. One of the indicators for thunderstorm development is convective available potential energy (CAPE). If this energy reaches one thousand joules per kilogram, or higher, then severe weather is likely and also the potential exists for tornadoes.

If the air is cold aloft in the upper levels of the atmosphere, then hail can occur with thunderstorms due to the freezing levels being quite low in the atmosphere. We saw this situation on Sunday, June 28th, when hail occurred with the thunderstorms along with gusty winds which caused some trees to fall.

The reason we had cold air aloft was an upper level low pressure system which moved across our area.

There was also a potent upper level disturbance which also moved across our area. Even though June did not bring us much hot weather this year in our area, it did across the southern states and the SW United States.

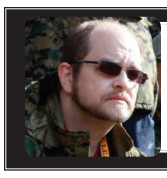
The southern states saw 90s in June and the temperatures reached 100 degrees and higher in Phoenix Arizona. For us this year has not been as hot as last year; we will see if this changes in July and August. The number of 80 degree or higher temperatures for Boston has been lower this year compared to last year this time. Some safety tips for hot weather are as follows:make sure you drink plenty of water and stay hydrated!!!

Wear light weight clothing (shorts) and also light color clothing. Light colors absorb less heat from the sun compared to darker colors. Refrain from strenuous outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

Wait until the sun goes down or also before it rises. DO not leave children and pets in hot cars with the windows closed. Temperatures can rise over 110 and even over 120 degrees inside the car. During the summer months we can get a heat wave which is three or more consecutive days when the temperature reaches 90 degrees or higher.

In summer we are prone to more thunderstorms. Remember if you are outdoors and hear thunder you must seek shelter immediately because the sound of thunder means lightning is close by and can strike you. Danger spots during a thunderstorm are open areas, examples are baseball fields, golf courses, tennis courts and also the beach. Stay away from trees because lightning can hit the top of the tree and can travel down to the ground. After a thunderstorm is over if you see downed power lines stay away and call your utility company. Also, during heavy rain with thunderstorms if you are driving DO NOT drive your car through flooded roads, turn around and proceed the opposite way. Also, this summer if you are at the beach and the ocean is choppy use caution especially when the lifeguards are gone for the day. It is hurricane season however it has been quiet; although in August we will start to see more hurricanes form. Next month we will recap

July's weather and talk more about hurricanes. In the meantime, enjoy summer, stay cool and be safe!!! ◊



PAYING ATTENTION!

with Tom Duggan

Methuen Voters Just Don't Care

Given the enormous conflicts and controversies that have gone on in Methuen over the last two years, you might think that the people of Methuen have had enough. But a quick look at the number of people running for city offices this year shows that they really haven't, and that's tragic.

The City of Methuen is going into state receivership (no matter what they call it) because of financial mismanagement and the inability of Methuen leaders to... well ... lead.

In the last two years, city taxpayers have had to deal with an epidemic in crime and corruption. There was the Sweetheart Inn controversy, the police contract scandal, missing money, councilors who can't get accurate budget numbers, a mayor who voted on his own son's contract, a superintendent of schools who faked her state certification, a school committee that allowed her to retire with a full pension - no questions asked - a $4M school budget shortfall, multiple lawsuits, conflicts of interest, and secret, backroom deals by elected officials.

Yet, with all this going on, where is the outcry from Methuen voters demanding change? Where is the flood of new blood demanding new leadership and a different direction for the city they live in?

Nowhere!

This sends a very dangerous message to the political insiders that backroom deals and political corruption is acceptable and will surely lead to more going forward. Politicians are keenly aware of the apathy among their citizens, and they count on that apathy when they are selling jobs and engaging in wrongdoing. They know that no matter what they do - at the end of the day - the voters will shrug it off and let them maintain their political power. That is very dangerous for our democracy, leads to lower quality of city services and higher taxes for everyone.

HOW BAD IS IT?

The deadline has long past for voters to take out nomination papers to run for office in the November municipal elections.

There are only three candidates running for mayor, four candidates running for three seats in the council at- large race, two city councilors are actually running unopposed in the East End (staggering), three candidates running for two seats in the West End, and five candidates running for six seats on the school committee.

And that's if everyone who took out nomination papers turns them in and qualifies to get on the ballot.

Methuen has a population of approximately 47,000 people and only 5 people expressed an interest in running for 6 seats on the school committee? Only four people are running for three seats in the city council at large (city wide) race? Two councilors running unopposed in the East end?

What a disgrace.

If the past two years of national embarrassment and obvious corruption isn't enough to motivate the people of Methuen to get involved and take control of their city government by running for office, nothing will - and - nothing will ever change. This is the year the people of Methuen should be most active, given that so much is at stake for the future of the city. Over-development, crumbling infrastructure, an increase in violent crime, a school system reeling from the Scannel situation, a police department under fire by the press and the public, budget deficits, unexplained city expenses, what is it going to take?

Shame on the people of Methuen for not getting involved and taking back your city government. I get that it's a thankless job for little or no money. I get that the insiders make it dirty, and personal and you have to make sacrifices just to run a campaign. But, if people do not step up and serve their community in time of crisis like this, things are only going to get worse. The political insider will continue calling the shots. The city will continue to degrade both physically and sociologically.

At this pace the City of Methuen will be in full state receivership (control) in under three years.

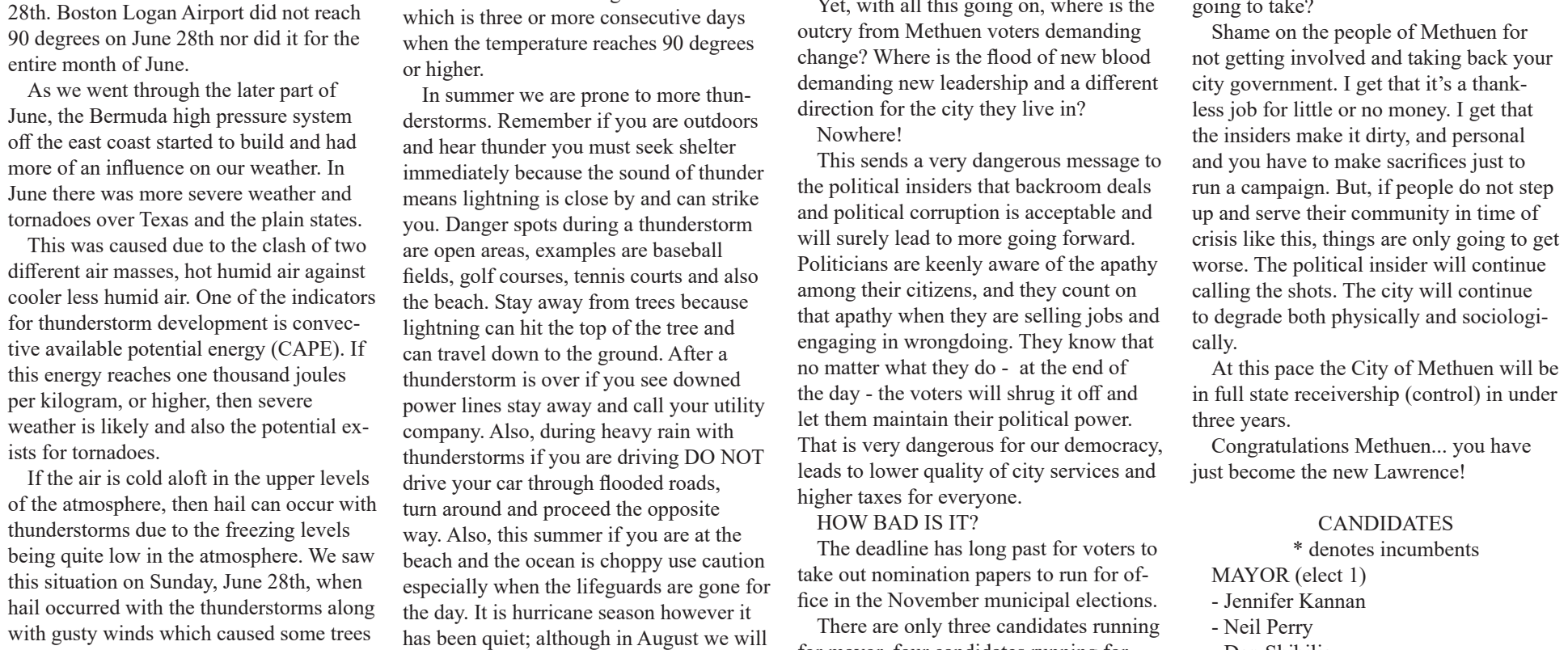
Congratulations Methuen... you have just become the new Lawrence!

CANDIDATES
* denotes incumbents

MAYOR (elect 1)
- Jennifer Kannan
- Neil Perry
- Dan Shibilia

COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE (elect 3)
- Stephen Angelo, Jr.
- D.J. Beauregard
- Nicholas DiZoglio
- *Jessica Finocchiaro

SHAME: PAGE 13



I'm Running for City Council

Sandy Almonte
GUEST COLUMNIST

Okay ... so, I keep getting asked how can you help out in my campaign to continue being YOUR Voice this time as an AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILOR THIS COMING SEPTEMBER.

I know candidates ask for "money"… "contributions"....the ONLY contribution I, Sandy Elizabeth Almonte ask for is the honor of your vote and your continued dedication to this movement by getting your friends, family, and neighbors out to VOTE in this election on September 24th.

I will continue to fight for our youth and the resources needed - where lacking, as well as, making sure the needs of our city continue to be met through youth involvement, chat group activities, community and parent/child workshops, new and innovative ideas set forth by people in our community, people who are willing to come together to move us forward as a family and, as always, my passion and a NO tolerance attitude when defending and or protecting your rights.

Many campaigns want your "money" I ONLY NEED YOU!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND VOTE!!!

If you would like to join in with the ALMONTE FOR LAWRENCE MOVEMENT you may contact me at (978) 204-9807 or Almonteforlawrence@Gmail.com. ◊

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Fighting for Freedom Every Single Day in Dracut

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

In some towns in Massachusetts, our independence is celebrated on July 4th. In Dracut, there's plenty of opportunities to fight for – and celebrate – freedom all year long. No matter the season, the First Amendment always seems to be the last resort for town government, sadly.

This year, freedom rang loudly and strongly in Dracut on May 2nd. That was the day Jesse Forcier, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, notified the Dracut Republican Town Committee (DRTC) that elected officials had finally taken charge and managed Town Manager James Duggan. As you may remember, Duggan had illegally banned the DRTC from marching in the town's Memorial Day parade in honor of our fallen veterans. Of course, he'd probably like you to forget…

Despite the fact that Selectmen publicly criticized the ban and spoke in favor of letting all town groups march, Duggan dug in and defied his five bosses. He tried to pass the buck to the American Legion and Colleen Garry, Dracut's favorite strip-mall lawyer who provides free services for Post 315. (They definitely get what they pay for – and they deserve better!)

As soon as Duggan revealed on TV that he had contacted the American Legion commander through John Dyer, a Democrat operative and one of Garry's political cronies, the gig was up. When it looks like an inside job and it smells like cow manure, it's dirty politics in Dracut – and Garry isn't usually too far from the stench.

In case you've forgotten, Garry has a history of trying to silence her political opponents and anyone else who disagrees with her. She tried to weaponize the state's campaign finance law, filing a bill to basically shred the First Amendment, silence any criticism of her very pathetic voting record and make sure no one hurts her delicate feelings. But it backfired, big time. Instead of silencing free speech, Garry caused an outcry of opposition to her proposal, with the Lowell Sun, Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, Boston Herald and Boston Globe all speaking out against her ridiculous and unconstitutional bill. By the way, the irony is that Colleen Garry tried to change the same law she was fined $5,000 by the state for violating, for failing to keep accurate campaign finance records for many years, sadly.

Anyway, it's a shame that our veterans were put into the position of being forced to choose sides by Duggan and Garry, who politicized the parade for absolutely no reason other than politics. After all, freedom of speech is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue; it's an American issue. Our military forces fight all around the world and give the ultimate sacrifice to defend all of us and all our rights, without regard for anyone's political party back here at home.

Ultimately, the government watchdog group Judicial Watch interceded to ensure freedom of speech wasn't trampled by town government and that 22 members, associates and friends of the DRTC were allowed to march. In the end, the town's about-face helped put a face on a group of patriotic citizens who simply wanted to honor our fallen veterans, like everyone else in the town parade.

It wasn't the first time that free speech was hard to swallow in Dracut or the first time Judicial Watch had to get involved to protect the First Amendment in town this year, sadly. At the end of February, Judicial Watch challenged the constitutionality of the town's political-sign bylaw. Initially, the town manager tried to dismiss the issue. Six weeks later, he put an article on the Town Meeting warrant to repeal it in its entirety.

On June 3rd, freedom struck again. Town Meeting voted in favor of the repeal, removing illegal restrictions placed on town residents and political candidates that violated the First Amendment and rulings of the Supreme Court. It wasn't a minute too soon, as the repeal came more than 15 years after the legality of the political-sign bylaw was first challenged in federal court.

Nearly 250 years after our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor in the name of freedom, it's still worth fighting for. And, in Dracut, it's just as necessary now as it was then. See you on the town battlefield, sadly.

Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex District of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ◊

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Lowell Lions Club members making a donation of $250 to the friends of the Lowell Senior Center. Left to right: Len Tarmey - Lions Club secretary, Beverly Gonsalves - Senior Ctr. Board member, Dr. Joseph Downes - President, Friends Of The Lowell Senior Ctr, Dick Provencher - Lowell Lions Club President, and Dr.George R. Montminy (RET) Lowell Lions Club Treasurer-Elect

POLICE AND DA'S NOW CONTROL WHAT YOU KNOW

Four men were stabbed on Kendall Street in Lawrence on the 4th of July. One man, the aggressor in the situation, was charged with attempted murder. You didn't read that in the daily paper or see it on the news because the new norm by our public servants is to only tell the media what they need to know, while creating out their own news (propaganda) on social media. By the way, this isn't just Lawrence. All over the state police departments are concealing information, district attorneys (who work for us by the way) impound police reports so the press can't get them. John Blodgett, the Essex County DA waited a whole 24 hours or more before holding a press conference on the murder in Groveland last month. Of course by that time, it was barely even news. He has also threatened local police chiefs with jail time if they release booking photos, saying it's against the law, when any thinking person knows that it's not.

Then you have these public relations firms that are the keepers of information, like Guilfoil Public Relations LLC which sometimes pushes our press releases on crime that occurs in the community in a timely manner. Sometimes not so timely. Sometimes not at all. But, whatever they release, it is of course what the police departments want you to know, WHEN they want you to know it. What is happening here is huge and nobody seems to care. Police departments and DAs are controlling the news. And the so called news media is bowing down and taking it. They want to control the message but they are forgetting that they work for us. Yet, if nobody holds them accountable and challenges them, they aren't really working for us at all. They are working for themselves. Add to that the increase in police departments encrypting their scanner transmissions, all the while setting up cameras everywhere so that you ... their BOSS ... you know, like the public ... know nothing about what your public servants are up to except what they want you to know. All the while they can watch and log everywhere you go and everything you do in public. It doesn't seem like our public servants believe in transparency anymore but if the public lets them get away with it… and you are … then they keep pushing the envelope further and further until the only thing we know is what they tell us. George Orwell warned us about this in his book 1984. But nobody is fighting any of this. We just complacently shrug it off and go on our merry way. We are completely losing our ability to have a free press to educate the public about what our public servants are doing on our behalf. We are completely losing our ability to hold public officials accountable. But, that's on us. It's an election year. Start asking candidates for office where they stand on public transparency in public safety matters. Make them understand their job is to fight for us.

CONGRESSMAN LIES ABOUT BORDER PATROL MAKING CHILDREN DRINK TOILET WATER/CRIES AT FENCE - MEDIA YAWNS - Last month, Congressman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez made a stunning allegation after visiting a detention center for illegal aliens at the southern border. "They are literally drinking out of the toilets," the congressman told the media in a breathless and overly dramatic statement. She was then photographed crying at the fence of a detention center to show her compassion and how much she truly cares "about the children". But, it wasn't long before we learned that Cortez was lying. First, it was revealed that illegal alien children were not, in fact, drinking toilet water, but that a commode was set up with a sink at the top for fresh drinking water. Then, the real photographs (the ones that were not photo-shopped) were released showing Cortez was crying at a fence outside an empty parking lot – not outside a detention center. Shameful! Did the media "demand accountability? No, of course not." As long as you are smearing the Trump administration they don't care if you lie. Just imagine if Cortez was a pro-Trump republican! There would be a steady drumbeat on cable news every day demanding that she APOLOGIZE for slandering law enforcement with her fake claims of children drinking out of toilets. CNN "journalists" would be ambushing every republican official they could find, asking them to "denounce" AOC for faking a crying photo at a parking lot. That steady drumbeat would then get louder and louder by the minute until she apologized. Then, once she apologized, they would continue the drumbeat of calls for her resignation for "destroying people's faith in our institutions" and "harming our democracy!" She would also be called RACIST for purposely using scare tactics to make people with brown skin hate America..... but ... she's a democrat.... so.... not so much.

McCARTY THE ROCK STAR

With four candidates running for city council in Methuen's Central District (McCarty, Campagnone, Deeb, and Normandia) one thing I can predict for primary day is that Jim McCarty is going to top the ticket. It seems like no matter who I talk to in the Central District they LOVE Jim McCarty. So it looks like the other three candidates in the Central District are going to be fighting for that second spot. Kudos to the people of Methuen's Central District for fielding four candidates for two council seats. At least the voters have a real choice!

LYNN VIDLER STEPS ASIDE

One of the most disappointing things about this year's municipal election in Methuen is that West District Councilor Lynn Vidler is not running for reelection. While she took a load of bull for having a husband on the police department, Lynn was one of the smartest and most diligent city councilors sitting at that table. She understands budgets and contracts, and it was obvious watching the meetings that she did her homework and read every single piece of paper put in front of her. Lynn had nothing to do with the controversy over the police contract, but she still had to deal with the accusations and innuendos and that wasn't' fair - for her or her husband. The people of Methuen were well served having Lynn Vidler on the city council whether you agreed with her on the issues or not. Her absence will be quite noticeable when the next council tackles a budget or negotiates contracts.

KANNAN SNUBS VALLEY PATRIOT READERS

Four years ago when Methuen Councilor Jen Kannan was running for mayor she blamed me for an ad that ran in the pages of this paper by Laborer's Union Local 175. This, despite the fact that I was actually supporting her at the time, I also gave her a heads up that the ad was about to run and didn't seem all that concerned. That didn't stop her and her supporters talking trash about me all over the community as if I was somehow responsible for the content of a paying advertiser. I wasn't. But, OK, fine with me. I'm a big boy and I can take anything these local politicians can dish out. Even the ones I'm supporting.

Over the last four years I was under the impression that Kannan had put the incident behind her. She certainly gave me that impression, because when I run into her she always calls me over to chat about local politics, news of the day, and how much she despises the Eagle Tribune. So, it was a bit of a surprise when Kannan made her announcement for mayor in two other newspapers (including the Tri) but snubbed the readers of the Valley Patriot by never sending us a press release. Not that it mattered, we had word from people in her campaign a few days earlier and had already reported her announcement on Facebook. If Jen Kannan wants to hold on to grudges that's fine. That's on her. As far as I am concerned I, and everyone here at The Valley Patriot, will continue to cover her campaign fairly and accurately. I don't live in Methuen, so I don't really care who wins. You see. I don't take politics personally like Jen does. I've already served in public office and left that petty mindset behind a long time ago. I'm not interested in settling scores or "getting even" with anyone. But it does beg a bigger question. If this is how Kannan is going to operate before she achieves political power in the mayor's office - refusing to work with people over petty personal beefs - then what will she be like if she wins? Smiling to people's faces while cutting them down behind their backs? How will she handle real power when she is the chief executive of the city? How will she deal with city workers, private contractors, average citizens whom she doesn't like, or who may have campaigned for her opponents? These are really good questions that voters of Methuen need to think about. I live in North Andover so it doesn't affect me either way. But, if I lived in Methuen, I'd be giving all of this some very serious thought.

BIDEN APOLOGIZES FOR TELLING THE TRUTH

In a political culture where everyone is lying about everything, telling the truth can get you in a ton of hot water. Last month, former Vice President Joe Biden found that out first-hand when he reminisced about the days when he could sit down with segregationists in Congress and work on compromise on issues important to the country. After all, that is their job. Sadly, Democrats in Congress (and the media) today don't want to work with anyone to find common ground or get things done for the American people. They want to destroy anyone who doesn't think like they do. They liken political opponents to Nazi's, and slander their character. For once, Joe Biden was actually right about something. But, because he was attacked by people in his own party and being of weak character (not to mention being willing to say and do literally anything to get elected), Biden eventually apologized for what he said. But why did Kamela Harris and the rest of the left leaning Democrats freak out so bad when Biden talked about "working with segregationists"?

THE REAL REASON DEMOCRATS WERE MAD AT BIDEN

While everyone was talking about whether or not Joe Biden should apologize for saying he used to "work with segregationists" in Congress, what they were not talking about was the real reason they were all freaking out behind the scenes. What they were most upset about is that he was reminding people that Democrats WERE the segregationists. He was reminding people with his statement that the Democrat Party is the party of the Ku Klux Klan, Jim Crow, segregation, slavery, and lynchings. It was the Democrat Party that opposed desegregation, and it was the Democrat Party that is responsible for all of the misery black Americans endured for the last 250 years. It gets really hard to call Republicans racists, demand to take down statues of confederates, and rename public buildings while the former vice president is running around reminding people that the Democrats were actually the segregationists.

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mittee is excited to announce the Annual Yankee Homecoming Veteran Luncheon. This luncheon aims to bring our Veterans and their guests together to make new friends, provide on-going resources, and to acknowledge the service that our Veterans gave to this great country. The Veteran Luncheon will be located at the Hope Community Church, 11 Hale Street, Newburyport, MA on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 from 12 noon – 2 pm. We would like the community to extend a special thanks to our luncheon sponsors: Fairway Mortgage, SGT Jordan Shay Memorial Foundation, and Yankee Homecoming.

The program of the luncheon is as follows: Director of Veterans Services for the City of Newburyport, Kevin Hunt, a Navy Veteran and Vietnam Veteran who will be opening this year's luncheon with a few remarks. The Director of the Edith Nourse Rogers VA Medical Center, Joan Clifford, DNP will be this year's Master of Ceremonies. Former Navy Seal, Iraq veteran and co-owner of Battle Grounds Coffee Company, Salvatore DeFranco will be our Keynote Speaker. The Guest of Honor for Yankee Homecoming's Veteran Luncheon will be US Navy veteran Douglas Bryant. He has a lengthy submarine service which began during WWII, through the Korean War, Vietnam and the Cold War. We are honored to have the USS Constitution Color Guard presenting the colors.

The Veteran Luncheon has been hosted during Yankee Homecoming for the last 12 years, and was started and managed by Korean War Veteran, Frank Ventura. "Our Veterans are our own National Treasures," shared local resident and Yankee Homecoming Committee Member Donald Jarvis. "Whether returning recently or during WWII where are eldest Veterans are from – we thank our Veterans for their service and it's our honor to host this luncheon for them." This year our guest will enjoy delicious Italian food from Giuseppe's Fresh Pasta & Fine Food with both a meat and vegetable option, and assorted desserts.

THE NAVY GAVE ME SHOES

Retired US Navy Veteran Doug Bryant tells the story of his early years and his lengthy career in the Submarine Service beginning in World War Two and continuing through the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Cold War until his retirement in 1967. It's a unique account from the viewpoint of an enlisted seaman who sailed into the Sea of Japan in 1944 as a teenaged Sailor in what would become one of the most hazardous but productive submarine patrols of the war. Copies of this book will be available for purchase at the lunch. All books bought at the lunch will be signed by Doug Bryant.

WE INVITE YOU TO SAY THANKS!

This year we are welcoming the community to send a special Thank You message to our veterans for this year's luncheon. We are actively seeking 15 – 20 second long Thank You videos that will be played at the luncheon. We are thankful for the service of our veterans and we feel this will be a way for us all to show our appreciation, and thanks together. These can be filmed on your cell phone and emailed to yhvetslunch@gmail.com.

HUNTLEY NAMED MEGAN HOUSE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Megan House Foundation is excited to announce Pamela Huntley as the organization's executive director on a permanent basis. The Hampton, New Hampshire resident previously served on the Foundation's Board of Directors before assuming the Executive Director's role on an interim basis early this year. Huntley's in-depth knowledge of the organization and the local health care community has proven invaluable to the organization's continued growth.

Huntley came to Megan's House after spending a decade at Lowell General Hospital, most recently as the Director of Community Relations and at the Center for Community Health & Wellness. While there, she excelled at developing relationships with corporate and community partners to generate a climate of understanding and support for the health system, its mission, accomplishment and challenges. Huntley developed a reputation as a skilled program builder and has succeeded in leveraging her career experience and networking connections to benefit the Megan House Foundation.

The mission of the Megan House Foundation is to improve the quality of life of its residents through an evidence-based substance use disorder treatment program that emphasizes individual dignity, self-respect and empowerment. Through its long-term residential treatment program and success homes, the organization has established a culture that promotes wellness and success.

To learn more about the Megan House Foundation, please visit www.themeganhouse.org

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT FALL BULB AND PERENNIAL SALE - The Middlesex Conservation District will be holding its annual Fall Bulb and Perennial Sale on 9/20 (3-6 pm), and 9/21 (8am – 12 noon) at the Great Brook Farm State Park Ski Touring Center, 1018 Lowell St, Carlisle, MA. All items can be pre-ordered through 8/31 and picked up on the sale days – we encourage advance ordering as we sell out of some items but you may also simply come and shop. Don't forget to check out Great Brook Farm's amazing ice cream while you are here! Place your order online at www.middlesexconservation.org or mail in a check; to receive a copy of our catalog please call 978-692-9395 or email middlesexconservation@yahoo.com. Items will include daffodils, tulips, specialty bulbs, perennials, and fertilizer.

BRIDGES BY EPOCH HOSTS COMPLIMENTARY DEMENTIA EDUCATION AND SUPPORT - ANDOVER

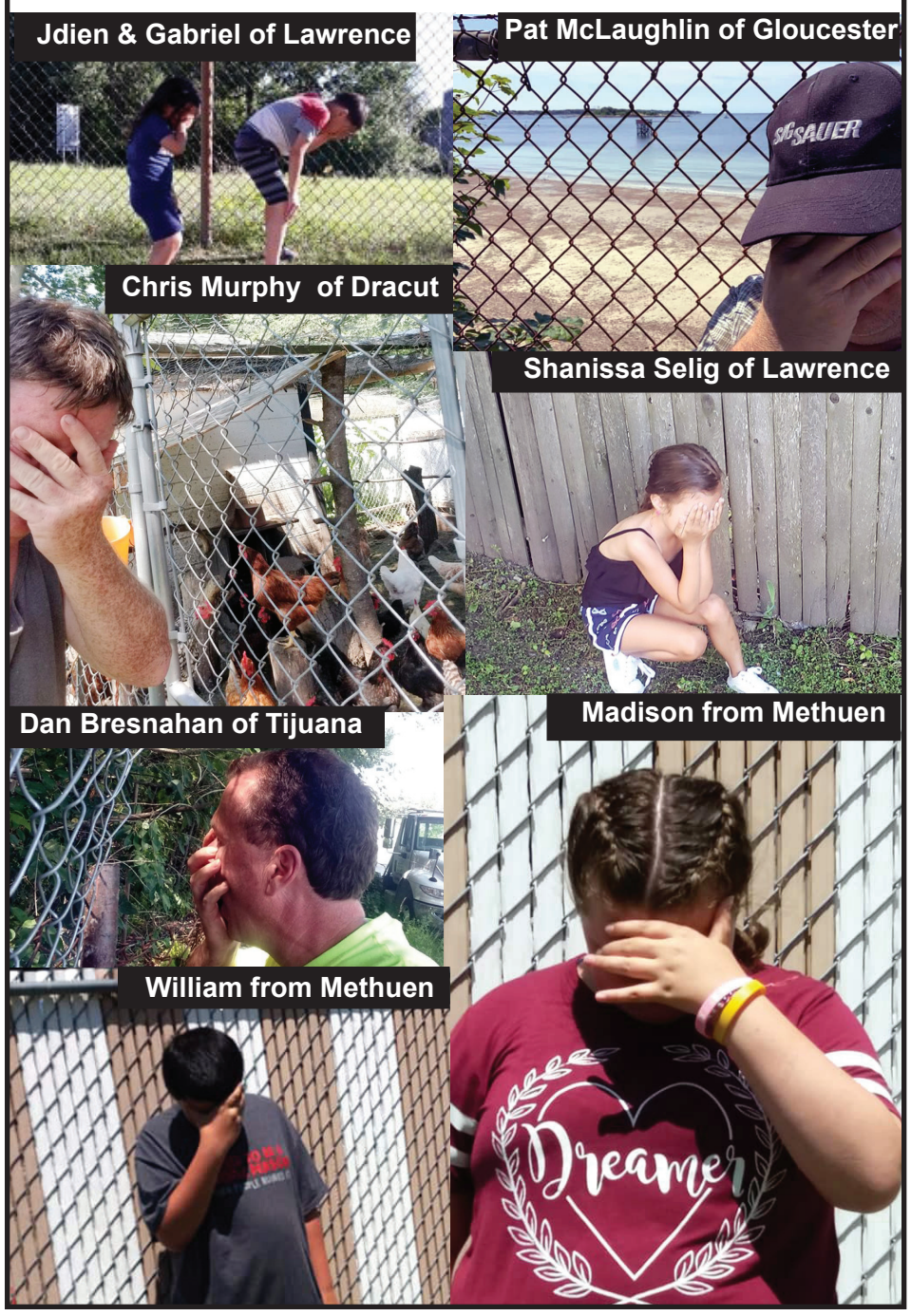
Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover, a memory care assisted living community located at 254 Lowell Street in Andover, will host the following complimentary events this July.

Veterans Café: July 16th at 10am - Local Veterans are invited to stop by Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover to meet and mingle with other veterans, listen to stories and

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 16

VALLEY PATRIOT READERS TAKE THE AOC CHALLENGE!

When Congressman Alexandria Occasio Cortez posed for a photo of herelf crying outside the fence of what she said was a detention facility for illegal alien children, and then it was revealed that it was a staged photo at an empty parking lot - Valley Patriot readers decided to take the "AOC Challenge" by going out and crying at the nearest fence they found. Who says politics can't be funny?



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New England Revolution Honors Hero Kevin Vanderhorst of Lawrence

Valley Patriot 2016 BASH Scholarship Winner

BOSTON — The New England Revolution honored Kevin Vanderhorst from Lawrence, MA as the Hero of the Match at the team's home game on Wednesday, June 26th against Philadelphia Union. Kevin was recognized during a pre-game ceremony for being a leader among his teammates and a role model within his community. He had a sideline view of the Revs pre-game warmups and enjoyed the game from the Putnam Club. A recipient of The Valley Patriot BASH Scholarship in 2016, Kevin was diagnosed with testicular cancer right before the start of his junior season. In defiance of his new limitations, Kevin only missed team activities when he had doctors' appointments or when he was coaching and tutoring at his local YMCA. Kevin continues to be a leader amongst his teammates and is a role model in his community. Kevin will return to competing athletically and to volunteering locally at the YMCA to help develop study habits and sports fundamentals for middle school students with more traction. Kevin is now 3 months cancer-free.

The Revs' Hero of the Match program honors a local first responder, member of the armed forces or individual making a difference in the community at each home game during the 2019 season. To nominate a Hero of the Match for an upcoming New England Revolution home game, please visit: www.revolutionsoccer.net/community/hero-of-the-match ◊

LAWRENCE HEROES AROUND THE WORLD

SALALAH, OMAN - Seaman Michael Hernandez, from Lawrence, MA, heaves line aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) while pulling into port. Bainbridge is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operation in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and Pacific through the Western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jason Waite/Released) ◊

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Speaker DeLeo Joins State Delegation at Veterans Northeast Outreach Center

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In June, we were fortunate to have Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo visit the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center (VNOC) in Haverhill. I invited the Speaker to help highlight the VNOC's exceptional programs and services, which are second to none in caring for our Veterans.

The VNOC, established in 1985, has a staff of 74 employees and offers services to over 50,000 eligible Veterans across the region. Their programs provide food and housing assistance, advocacy, medical referrals, career and educational supports, and more. Of particular note are their wrap-around services, which ensure that our Veterans receive holistic and sustainable support.

The VNOC is also in the process of constructing 44 units of Veterans' housing on the site of the old Gerson Furniture building on Washington Street in Haverhill. This is a major project that will have a real impact on reducing Veteran homelessness in our community.

During the visit, Speaker DeLeo remarked that he considers the VNOC to be a role model in serving the Veteran community. He also voiced his continued commitment to passing Veteran-focused legislation each session to keep Massachusetts #1 in the nation in caring for our Veterans. I look forward to working with the Speaker on this legislation in my role as Chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Speaker has also been very supportive year after year of funding for Veterans' services in the state budget. I thank him for his support of an amendment I filed with the Merrimack Valley delegation to secure an additional $300,000 for the VNOC in the House budget. If adopted in the final budget, the VNOC plans to use this funding to help Veterans in need who may not be eligible for certain VNOC programs.

We are lucky to have this incredible organization in our community – many thanks to the VNOC team for all of their work. Thanks also to Speaker DeLeo for visiting, and to my colleagues who attended, including Representatives Andy Vargas, Lenny Mirra, Christina Minicucci, and Tram Nguyen, as well as Haverhill Mayor Fiorentini, Haverhill City Councilor Melinda Barrett, and Haverhill Veterans' Service Officer Amanda Buckley.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ◊

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Addressing the Opioid Crisis

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

Every day we hear a news report or read of a new statistic about the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts. We all know people – loved ones, friends, neighbors or colleagues – who have been affected by addiction.

Here in the Merrimack Valley, I remain committed to addressing the impacts of opioids on our communities. Recently, through the passage of the FY20 Senate Budget, I secured funds toward important initiatives to help beat back this epidemic in our region of the Commonwealth.

Included in the budget is funding to launch a pilot program that will provide transportation services to Merrimack Valley residents seeking treatment at a detoxification or rehabilitation center. The program will provide a 24/7 van service, accessed through an existing Bureau of Substance Addiction Services hotline, to transport persons in need of these services and lessen the burden on volunteers who have historically assisted with the transportation of those seeking treatment.

Additionally, I secured funds for both the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) program at Methuen High School and the Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project (MVPASAP).

Founded in the 1980s as Students Against Driving Drunk, SADD initially focused on addressing teen deaths from drinking and driving. Now, SADD focuses on the prevention of all destructive behaviors, including substance use, depression and suicide.

MVPASAP is an organization committed to ending the stigma of addiction and engaging public and private community members to work together in promoting awareness, education, prevention, and treatment of substance use in our communities.

With the help of additional funds, both the SADD program and MVPASAP can continue their important work.

Beyond the budget, I am working to gather momentum and support around several bills pertaining to addiction, including legislation - Senate Bill 272 - to expand substance use education and heroin diversion programs in public schools.

While we have made great strides in recent years toward assisting those struggling with addiction, we need to do even more in educating our youth to prevent them from ever reaching that point. It is critical that we connect with young people in our communities early on in their adolescence, as younger teenagers who try drugs or alcohol are more likely to struggle with substance use later on in life. We must stay vigilant.

If you would like additional information on legislation I am working on in this session, please contact me via e-mail at Diana.DiZoglio@masenate.gov or by phone at (617) 722-1604 anytime.

Yours in service, Diana ◊

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Lawrence Detectives Recognized for Excellence in Performance Award

Lawrence, MA- Mayor Daniel Rivera, with Police Chief Roy Vasque announced Detective Sergeant Amanda Burke and Detective Ana Villavizar received awards in May from the Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement (MAWLE). "Increasing the diversity of the Lawrence Police Department has been a top priority of my administration. Front and center of this diversity is the increase in female officers. The number of female officers is up to 13, the highest in the city's history. Detective Sergeant Burke and Detective Villavizar are shining examples of the caliber of law enforcement professionals our community can expect out of their police force," said Mayor Daniel Rivera. "I commend them on their awards and recognitions from MAWLE and thank them for setting the example in Lawrence. I am proud to have them represent our community."

Detective Sergeant Burke is the recipient of the Special Recognition Award for the Spirit of MAWLE. Detective Sergeant Burke was recognized for her continued leadership and professionalism as a sexual assault investigator.

Detective Villavizar is the recipient of the Spirit of MAWLE Award for Excellence in Performance. In blank 2019, Detective Villavizar was the first detective assigned to an investigation of an 11-year-old that was exposed to fentanyl and later died.

"Detective Sergeant Burke and Detective Villavizar are dedicated members of our police force," said Police Chief Roy Vasque. "Their commitment to keeping residents safe and their professionalism on a daily basis is a testament to the hard work we have been putting in to improve our police force. I congratulate them on a job well done." ◊

North Andover-Boxford Veterans Services

MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL CEMETERY TRIP

JOIN US FOR A TRIP TO THE MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL CEMETERY IN BOURNE, MA ON AUGUST 6, 2019

RSVP to North Andover-Boxford Veteran Services
978-688-9525
Veterans@northandoverma.gov

Seats are limited,
Please RSVP prior to July 30, 2019.

The bus will leave by 9:30AM. There is no cost for the bus trip, but participants will be responsible for their own lunch.

Lawrence Voters Flood Ballot with Newcomers for Council

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOT SO MUCH

While Methuen voters clearly don't give a damn about their local government and apathy has become the norm, Lawrence voters are engaged and motivated to help run their city. Almost every race for Lawrence City Council is contested with a flood of newcomers seeking to help run city government. Since the state is still in control of the schools, and the school committee has no real power, there is no interest in the school committee races. The primary election in Lawrence is ? The top six candidates for council at-large will go on to the November final. Three will be elected. In the district council and school committee races, two will be nominated in September, one will be elected in the November final election. If there is no candidate for any race, fifty write-in votes will put any candidate's name on the November ballot. ◊

COUNCILOR at LARGE (elect 3)
* Richard L. Russell
Brian A. DePena (I)
* Ana Levy (I)
Sandy E. Almonte
* Celina Reyes
Francisco Brea
* Wander Morel
Pavel Payano (I)
Frederick Diaz
Steven H. Gil
Jacqueline Marmol

DISTRICT A (Elect 1)
Kemal Bozkurt
Maria DeLaCruz
* Frankie Caraballo
John Matatall
Raul A. Diaz Jr.

DISTRICT B (Elect 1)
* Alcibiades Acosta
Estela Reyes (I)

DISTRICT C (Elect 1)
Jorge Gonzalez

DISTRICT D (Elect 1)
Jeovanny Rodriguez (I)
Lee Fickenworth

DISTRICT E (Elect 1)
David C. Abdoo

DISTRICT F (Elect 1)
Marc Laplante (I)
* Gregory DelRosario

LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
DISTRICT A (Elect 1)
Donna Bertolino (I)

DISTRICT B
NO ONE as of 7/5/19

DISTRICT C
NO ONE as of 7/5/19

DISTRICT D
Lorie Mendoza
Joshua Alba

DISTRICT E
Homayoun Malli
* Patricia A. Mariano (I)
Michelel Lajara

DISTRICT F
Juan A. Soriano Matias 4/3/19
Stacy Reid Seward 4/10/19

GREATER LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
* Brenda Rozzi
* Leo J. LaMontagne (I)
Stephany Infante
Gary M. Mannon Jr (I)
Zoila Disla
Vivian E. Marmol

SHAME: FROM 5

CENTRAL DISTRICT (elect 2)
- *Joyce Campagnone
- D.J. Deeb
- *Jimmy McCarty
- Jordan Normandia

EAST DISTRICT COUNCILOR (elect 2)
- *Steve Saba
- *Eunice Zeigler

WEST DISTRICT COUNCILOR (elect 2)
- Jeri-an Batal
- Frank Gallo
- Allison Saffie

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (elect 6)
- Kerrie Abate
- Jeri-an Batal
- *Nicholas DiZoglio
- Karen Hallbauer
- *Susan Nicholson
- *Jana Zanni Pesce

GREATER LAWRENCE TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (elect 2)
- Ryan DiZoglio
- Francisco Surillo

HOUSING AUTHORITY (elect 2)
- *Michelle Bibeau
- Ryan DiZoglio

NEVINS LIBRARY TRUSTEE (elect 2)
- *Dennis DiZoglio
- *Karen Woekel Jerz ◊

Members of the rock band Prospect Hill Andrew Bochart and Adam Fithian celebrate their 10th Anniversary playing at Wally's in Hampton Beach.

Frank and Dotti Incropera enjoyed the 4th of July reading their Valley Patriot wearing their Valley Patriot T-Shirts for a perfect patriotic celebration of America's (and my mother's) Birthday.

Front row: Daniella Tagliaferri of Andover High School; Sophia Giampaolo of Wilmington High School; Sophia Ciccarelli of Topsfield High School and Masco
Back row: Samuel Acquaviva of Newburyport High School; Dante Centofanti of North Reading High School; Anthony Florio of Methuen High School.

UNICO Merrimack Valley Awards $15,000 in Scholarships

During the June 12th Annual Scholarship dinner at the Haverhill Country Club, the Merrimack Valley Chapter of UNICO presented annual scholarship awards to 6 local high school students of Italian descent.

According to "Our Merrimack Valley UNICO Scholarship is $2,500- one of the largest local scholarships around- if not the largest. We received 46 applications from the greater Merrimack Valley area and awarded a total of $15,000 to 6 deserving students," Chairman Joe DiBlasi said of the 2019 UNICO MV Scholarship Awards.

After getting to meet our recipients and hear about them at the scholarship dinner, members continue to marvel about their amazing accomplishments, while all of the recipients demonstrated clear knowledge and pride of their Italian ancestry.

The following students were awarded $2,500.00 each: Samuel Acquaviva of Newburyport High School. Sam will be attending MIT. Dante Centofanti of North Reading High School. Dante will be attending Clemson. Sophia Ciccarelli of Topsfield High School and Masco. Sophia will be attending UMass Amherst.

Anthony Florio of Methuen High School. Anthony will be attending UMass Lowell. Sophia Giampaolo of Wilmington High School. Sophia will be attending UMass Lowell. Daniella Tagliaferri of Andover High School. Daniella will be attending Villanova. ◊

VALLEY PATRIOT AROUND THE WORLD - Valley Patriot readers love to take the paper with them on vacation and always leave a few copies behind so that people in other countries can see what a free press is really all about. In this photo is Brian Genest who is not only a long time reader of The Valley Pariot but our new Dracut Columist. Brian took his June 2019 Valley Patriot with him to Edinburgh Castle in Scotland last month. Send your Valley Patriot vacation photos to valleypatriot@aol.com

Member of the Methuen Lions Club, Dave O'Brien brought socks and other items donated by the District 33N Lions Global Service Team chairperson Tammy Gray of the Peabody Lions Club. The socks were donated to the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless held Wednesday nights at 2 South Broadway (the south side of the Falls Bridge) from 8-10pm. Anyone interested in donating food for the homeless at this weekly event please drop by or email Valleypatriot@aol.com and we will arrange to have it picked up.

Join us as we restore vision, leadership, and integrity to City Hall.

Neil PERRY
For Methuen

Our city needs to unite if we are to overcome our challenges and restore integrity to City Hall.
I invite you to learn more about me by visiting www.PerryforMayor.com or calling me at 978-258-0887. I look forward to meeting you.

P.O. Box 305 | Methuen, MA 01844 | www.PerryforMayor.com | Neil@PerryforMayor.com
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Neil Perry

2019 SUMMER BEACH ACTIVITIES

SEACOAST HAPPENINGS:

HAMPTON BEACH, NH

MONDAY NIGHT MOVIES ON THE BEACH FIREWORKS WEDNESDAY 9:30PM AFTER THE CONCERT

SEA SHELL STAGE FREE CONCERTS two shows each night:7-8PM and 8:30-9:30PM

Tues, 7/9 Maddi Ryan 3PM / Nick Drouin 7PM Country

Wed, 7/10 Houston Bernard Band, 3PM/ Timmy Brown 7PM Country

Thurs, 7/11 Kevin Herchen 3PM / Old Town 7PM/ William Michael Morgan 8PM

Fri, 7/12Neurotic Gumbo

Sat, 7/13 Neurotic Gumbo

Sun, 7/14 Acoustic Radio

Mon, 7/15 On Tap Band

Tues, 7/16 The "All You've Got Tour"

Wed, 7/17 The Continentals

Thurs, 7/18 Tequila Bonfire – Country

Fri, 7/19 Mark Shelton and the Jailhouse Rockers

Sat, 7/20 George Hosker (noon) B Street Bombers (7 p.m.)

Sun, 7/21 The Nevers Band

Mon, 7/22 Apathetics

Tues, 7/23 Mike & Me The Vic Paul Show

Wed, 7/24 The Salem Boyz

Thurs, 7/25 The Darren Bessette Band

Fri, 7/26 Brandy /Talent Application Deadline

Sat, 7/27 Little/Jr. Miss Hampton Beach 2PM/ Rico Barr and the Jumping Jive Review 7PM

Sun, 7/28 Miss Hampton Beach Pageant 2PM / The Reminisants – Oldies 7PM

Mon, 7/29 Bobby G

Tues, 7/30 Little Big Shots

Wed, 7/31 Ayla Brown – Country

Thurs, 8/1 The Mychael David Project

Fri, 8/2 The Reminisants – Oldies / Charlie Thomas and the Drifters

Sat, 8/3 Soulmate Band – Soul, Classic Rock, Top 40

Sun, 8/4 Talent Auditions (12-3 p.m.) Bel-Airs (7PM)

Mon, 8/5 Manchester Music School

Tues, 8/6 HELP – Beatles Tribute Band

Wed, 8/7 (Four Part Country) Mark 209

Thurs, 8/8: Goat Ropers – Country

Fri, 8/9 Brandy Band

SALISBURY BEACH

Salisbury Beach Center Free Concerts:

Wed, 7/10 6:45PM The Stones Cry Out & Right Hand Shade

Fri, 7/12 7:15PM Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 7/13 7:30PM Entrain

Wed, 7/17 6:45PM Rock Worship & Two Bands

Fri, 7/19 7:15PM Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 7/20 7:30 PM Joshua Tree: Premier U2 Tribute

Wed, 7/24 6:45PM Hope Worship Band & Tenley Westbrook with Friends of Bethany Church

Fri, 7/26 7:15PM Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 7/27 7:30PM James Montgomery Band

Wed, 7/31 6:45PM Connecticut Recording Artists Raging Grace Brad Illian & Calvary Bible Praise Band

Fri, 8/2 7:15PM Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 8/3 7:30PM The Rebels: Tom Petty Tribute

Wed, 8/7 6:45PM Byfield Parish Praise Band & Boston Recording Artist Live2Love Worship

Fri, 8/9 7:15 PM Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

NEWBURYPORT WATERFRONT FREE CONCERT SERIES

This event takes place at Waterfront Park. There are seven evenings of concerts. Families bring a blanket, chair, picnic supper or patronize local vendors and enjoy the entertainment on our beautiful waterfront.

SUN, 7/28 6-7PM – LIZ BILLS & THE CHANGE

BLUES BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HOMELESS VETS 7:30 – 9PM Join us for a special concert sponsored by **Veterans Northeast Outreach Center** and Parker Wheeler & Friends.The money collected during this concerts passing of the hat will go to homeless vets in our area

MON, 7/29 6– 7PM– A special pre-concert. Our High School Battle of the Bands winner will play a special concert

THIRD MAN HIGH 7:30 – 9PM all rock genres.

TUES, 7/30 5:30– 7Way to the River rock music

TIMMY BROWN 7:30 – 9 PM Nashville recording artist that grew up in Norton, Massachusetts, In 2017, Brown was voted New England Country Music's Local Male Artist of the Year for the second consecutive year.

WED, 7/31 6– 7PM FREEVOLT a Trop Reggae Rock act

B-STREET BOMBERS 7:30 - 9 PM show bands-world class music

Fri, 7/26 5 PM Yankee Homecoming: High School Battle of the Bands! · Waterfront Promenade Park Sat, 7/27 10 AM -Sun, 7/28 10 AM Yankee Homecoming: Art on Bartlet Mall 10 AM

NEWBURYPORT

Sat, 7/27 8AM Yankee Homecoming: Paddle the Port! Cashman Park

Sun, 7/28 9AM Yankee Homecoming: Olde Fashioned Sunday! Bartlet Mall

Mon, 7/29 3:30PM Yankee Homecoming: Waiter/Waitress Race! Liberty St, Get Tickets

Mon, 7/29 11AM Tues, 7/30 2PM Yankee Homecoming: Kid's Talent Show! Waterfront Park,

Tues, 7/30 12PM Yankee Homecoming: Veterans Lunch Hope Community Church - Get Tickets

Sat,8/3 10AM Yankee Homecoming: Family Day at Maudslay State Park! 74 Curzon Mill Rd.

Sun, 8/4 12PM Newburyport Yankee Homecoming Parade

NOTEBOOK FROM 9

Laborer's, Electricians, and Brick Layers demonstrate in front of the proposed Amazon facility in North Andover, asking for fair wages and benefits for their workers.

share their own, if they'd like. Coffee and refreshments will be served. RSVPs are requested: 978-296-0058.

More Than Just Memory Loss: July 16th 10:30am — Location: Tewksbury Senior Center located at 175 Chandler Street in Tewksbury. If a loved one is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, find out if the signs and symptoms point to Alzheimer's Disease or another form of dementia. Attendees will learn how these warning signs differ from normal aging. A light breakfast will be served. RSVPs are requested: 978-296-0058.

Caregiver Support Group: July 18th at 6pm - Join fellow caregivers to trade tips and receive expert advice and support from Kim O'Connell, MSW, LCSW. A light dinner will be served. Caregivers may bring their loved ones with memory loss to enjoy an activity with Bridges® residents while they attend. RSVPs are requested: 978-296-0058.

Honoring Resistance & Refusals: July 24th at 3pm - Memory loss can cause loved ones to be stubborn or disagreeable. Discover ways you can change your approach to safely honor their wishes or gain their cooperation. Caregivers may bring their loved ones with memory loss to enjoy an activity with Bridges® residents while they attend. RSVPs are requested: 978-296-0058.

Enhancing Brain Rhythms to Treat Alzheimer's Disease: July 31st at 2pm - Join MIT Researchers for this unique presentation at Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover. Learn about a new development in Alzheimer's research using a combination of light and sound that may potentially help improve symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease in a non-invasive way. Li-Huei Tsai, PhD, and Diane Chan, MD, PhD, from the Picower Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will present. Refreshments will be served. Caregivers may bring their loved ones with memory loss to enjoy an activity with Bridges® residents while they attend. RSVPs are requested: 978-296-0058.

Call 978-296-0058 for more information or click here to RSVP. ◊

PHSYCHOLOGICAL CENTER/ DAYBREAK GETS $100K CUMMINGS FOUNDATION GRANT

The Greater Lawrence Psychological Center is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of $100,000 each through Cummings Foundation's "$100K for 100" program. The Lawrence-based organization was chosen from a total of 574 applicants during a competitive review process.

These programs assist clients in achieving individual goals, provide education on relapse prevention, and focus on successful transition from the program. This contined care provides clients with many services including assistance getting health care, skill building to maintain recovery, life skills for a healthy future, and resources for aftercare planning. their program structure and approach is to guide and support clients' progress through early recovery stages to independence and self-sufficiency.

"We are all feeling extremely blessed and honored to be awarded $100K from the Cummings Foundation!" said Carina Pappalardo, CEO of the Psychological center.

"Our guests who are working on finding housing, employment, and their recovery are feeling the love and compassion through the support of this amazing award. The "$100K for 100" program is an everlasting impact that will always be remembered through changed lives."

These grant funds will help support the general operating expenses of the Daybreak Shelter, Pegasus House and Women's View programs. "Along with our other fundraising efforts, this award will help us to continue to provide life-saving services for our guests who are homeless, suffering from substance use or other mental health disorders."

"By having such a local focus, we aim to make a meaningful positive difference in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work," said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director. "We are most grateful for the nonprofit organizations that assist and empower our neighbors, and we are proud to support their efforts."

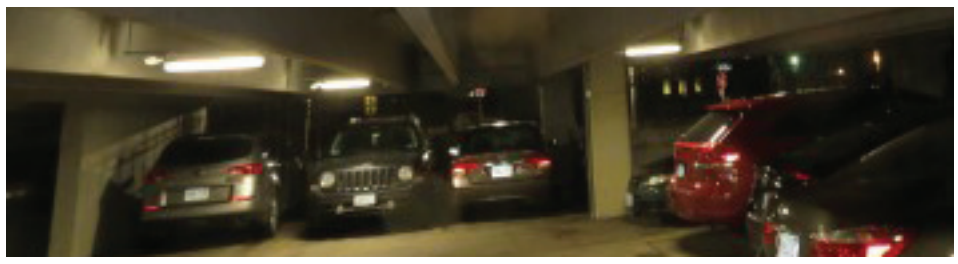
Most of the grants will be paid over two to five years.

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT GRADUATES 20 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS FROM BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY

Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger administered the oath to 20 new Correctional Officers of the Essex County Sheriff's Department (ECSD) at the Basic Training Academy graduation ceremony held at Northern Essex Community College (NECC) on June 21st. The rigorous, 12-week Basic Training Academy on the campus of NECC is the final phase of the process to become a Correctional Officer. The successful graduates, who come from communities throughout Essex County, will now be assigned full-time positions at ECSD run facilities.

A large percentage of law enforcement professionals receive their career related education from community colleges. NECC also offers courses for preparation and/or advancement in corrections careers.

The new Correctional Officers are: Robert Burrell, Christian Calix, John Comerford, Brian Dettorre, Kyle Houghton, Adrian Inoa, Anferne Jimenez, Christopher Jodoin, Shawn Kavanaugh, Keenan Kealey, Erik Laflamme, Terrance Lane, Alexander Nirgianakis, William Panzini, Jacob Roy, Mark Scribner, Jake Skusevich, Blake Ward, James Whitcher, Raymond Wilkins



Boston Land Company Sets the Record Straight on Museum Square Garage

The Boston Land Company sent a letter to tenants of Museum Square in Lawrence addressing the issue of the parking garage that has been the subject of such controversy.

Dear Museum Square Residents:

Since the condemnation and closing of the Museum Square Garage, there has been a great deal of misinformation coming from City Officials and the press about the financial relationship between Museum Square Apartments and the City of Lawrence regarding the garage. This is to help clarify and accurately describe the facts surrounding the garage.

•In the 1980's, Museum Square Apartments was built under the MassHousing SHARP Program which helped create mixed income affordable housing.

•As part of the apartments, the City leaders wanted a city owned garage to help revitalize the urban downtown.

•At that time, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts offered a program to build city-owned garages whereby the State paid 75% of the cost, as a grant (it does not need to be paid back), and the City had to pay 25% of the costs.

•The City had no money to cover their portion (25%) of the cost.

•Museum Square Apartments contributed over $1,200,000.00 towards the cost of the garage to cover the City's portion.

•Museum Square Apartments financed the additional $1,200,000.00 in the apartment building loan.

•Resident's rent payments and parking payments go towards paying the debt (mortgage) of the Museum Square Apartments and that includes the construction costs of the Garage.

•The Garage was handed over the City free and clear, owing no debt. The garage was built for FREE for the City.

•An Agreement was put in place to secure parking for the residents of Museum Square Apartments.

•The City is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Museum Square Garage since it owns the garage. The City collects other parking fees from the public to cover these costs.

•In 2012, the former Mayor tried to end the Agreement that was in place. The Superior Court determined Museum Square Apartments is in compliance with the agreement and Museum Square Apartments WON the judgement. Museum Square Apartments has a permanent injunction that the City MUST comply with the Agreement. This agreement secures a certain number of parking spaces for the Museum Square Apartments Residents.

•The Boston Land Company does NOT own Museum Square Apartments. The Boston Land Company is the management agent.

•To date, not one City Official has reached out to us to discuss this issue.

We want to assure all our residents that our legal right to convenient parking is very important. Be assured that we are working to find a proper resolution to this issue.

The Boston Land Company Management Services

June 21, 2019

Three People From Lawrence Arrested In NH State Poice- FBI Operation

On June 19, 2019 at approximately 2:15 pm The New Hampshire State Police Mobile Enforcement Team, (MET), was working a joint drug investigation in conjunction with the FBI Safe Streets Taskforce.

One of three subjects in a motor vehicle was taken into custody with a quantity of narcotics in a parking lot in the Town of Hampton after exiting the vehicle.

The driver and occupant in the vehicle fled the scene. A short motor vehicle pursuit was initiated by Trooper Jeffrey Costa on Rte#1 northbound until the fleeing vehicle's speed, reckless operation and risk to the public caused Trooper Costa to discontinue.

The vehicle was located a short time later in the area of North Road in North Hampton after crashing into the woods.

A search of the area by a State Police K-9 Unit in conjunction with the State Police Air Wing resulted in the successful apprehension of both subjects without incident. Stolen vehicle aspects remain under investigation.

The three individuals were identified as;

Luis A. MORETA (Operator)
AGE: 21
RESIDENCE: Lawrence, MA
CHARGES: Disobeying An Officer, Reckless Conduct – Felony, Reckless Operation, Resisting Arrest, Sale of Controlled Drug – Conspiracy,

Fernando J. SILIA (Subject initially taken into custody)
AGE: 19
RESIDENCE: Lawrence, MA
CHARGES: Sale of Controlled Drug – Conspiracy, Possession of Controlled Drugs with Intent to Sell

Lexis M. NEVAREZ (passenger)
AGE: 20
RESIDENCE: Lawrence, MA
CHARGES: Sale of Controlled Drug – Conspiracy, Resisting Arrest

All three individuals were released on PR Bail and are due to appear before the Rockingham County Superior Court for arraignment on June 28, 2019.

The State Police were assisted by the Hampton, North Hampton, Greenland and Rye Police Departments as well as the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department.

Any further inquiries relating to this case should be referred to the FBI Safe Streets Taskforce. ◊

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Methuen, MA 01844

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Fax 978-689-3377

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Former Vietnam Nurse from Lawrence Volunteers Still

Joe D'Amore
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Kathleen Benson, a young woman from a working-class family in Lawrence, in the mid-nineteen-sixties, typically wouldn't have a lot of travel and adventure opportunities. But this one ended up in a formerly beautiful French colonial coastal city, surrounded by the mountains of Viet Nam, exactly 50 years ago this month: Da Nang.

While most heroic people go to wars to fight an enemy, this young woman left behind all the comforts of a normal life, willingly, to confront the war in a different way. She objected to the war by immersing herself in it, serving as a nurse in the 95th Evacuation Hospital, as a 1ST Lt. Her personal mission was to save lives. She was shocked by the oppressive heat, noise, dust, the sound of distant, muffled explosions and Chinook helicopters that brought in the wounded day and night. But her determination to endure and serve with excellence prevailed.

Nurses in war zones are not recruited, nor drafted; they end up there by volunteering. After completing her studies as a nurse at age 20, she worked at Walter Reed Hospital, Bethesda, MD - learning her medical craft - until her petition to be shipped out to a war zone at the acceptable minimum age of 21 was approved.

But her training became more urgent when young soldiers of similar ages were brought in on gurneys tethered to the back of jeeps or open sides of helicopters, with bloodied stumps, facial, head and bodily wounds. Her understanding of the fragility of life was greatly accelerated relative to her young age as she confronted death, dying and disabling conditions first hand.

BENSON: PAGE 22

PAID FOR BY SANDY ALMONTE

"Grindr App Hinders LGBTQ Users Mental Health"

Tomas G. Michel
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

There are approximately 394,000 adults in the state of Massachusetts that identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans. Making us the second gayest state in the nation, according to a report by the Boston Indicators and Fenway Institute.

A 6.4% of the state's self-identified queer population resides in the Essex County; hence discussing the LGBTQ community's mental health in local venues is imperative. Given that this group carries adverse life experiences and traumas attached to their sexuality, but also considering that in our society's infrastructure, there are factors of the heteronormative, imploding the wellbeing of its members. Furthermore, even when platforms that were originally created to facilitate same sex dating-oriented-interactions, serve to harm its participants' dignity, such as is the case of the phone application Grindr.

Grindr is a hook up app —part of the mobile dating market—, belonging to an industry that profits off the pursual of romantic relationships and sexual interactions. Just in 2019 this trade has had 3 billion in revenue with an annual growth on 11%, according to an IBIS World Industry Report. Such serves as a direct incentive for the app to have a low social responsibility at regulating its operations.

The application, which is branded towards the gay man usage, promotes habits of impersonal, casual-sexual encounters; a culture in which users categorize themselves based on their body type. Promotes a hierarchy based on weight and body built —opening way for body shaming. A hypersexualized sphere that dissuade users from promoting positive and healthy human relationships. A setting that fosters patriarchal discrimination within the gay community itself, in which positive value is added to being masculine and negative to being effeminate, openly. And one in which if you are a gay Asian man, you are publicly disregarded to a less desirable status, with certain users perpetrating racial bias alongside profile biographies, stating: "Not into Asians."

According to the Clinical Social Worker and Therapist Michelle S. Wexelblat:

"Grindr users misunderstand the app's purpose. This mobile application was created to facilitate hook-ups. Yet users are seeking emotional support on mechanical sexual interactions, confuse validation with attraction and think that they will build a connection on affirmation —they often lack from relatives and friends— on a one-night stand. This behavior can lead to the feeling of loneliness and emptiness, especially, when a significant amount of LGBTQ community members, has built tools to adapt to dysfunctional situations, that cannot effectively operate in healthy ones. This leads to feelings of isolation and guilt, that are preambles of depression."

In MA there were 608 successfully completed suicides during 2014, with a 54% of the victims possessing documented and current mental health problems; and in 2015, 631 cases of suicide deaths, with a 55% of documented mental health conditions, according to the state's Department of Public Health. A 40% of the LGBT population in Massachusetts has been diagnosed with depression, according to a surveillance conducted by Maria McKenna, PhD within 2011 and 2016, making it a high-risk community to suicide attempts.

Despite same-sex marriage was ruled constitutional nationwide in 2015, providing legal protection to an underserved and discriminated demographic, with second class citizenship status, one would think this measure would be the final milestone for equality. Yet the amendment did not fix the different types of judgements gay men are able to inflict against each other, many times as a result of inner wounds. Neither gave individual protection from a different array of institutionalized incurrences, that are a determining factor towards higher suicides rates as: lack of representation and institutionalized misogyny.

Fortunately, a bill was enacted in the U.S. Congress titled the "Equality Act" that seeks to amend the Civil Rights Act, at prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and biological sex. Legally protecting sexu-

GRINDR: PAGE 22

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The Promises of God

Peter Larocque
RELIGION COLUMNIST

The believers in Jesus Christ will be seated
together with him in the heavenlies. Everyone else will be under that name. Ephesians adds more, Ephesians 1:21-23, "Far above all principality, and power,
and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:22 And hath put all things under his feet,
and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." And where are all the believers in
Christ? Ephesians 2:6 tells us, "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

We believers are right where we are supposed to be, with Him! This my friends is all by God's Grace! None of this happened because of some great
service or work we did, it's all by God's unmerited, unearned and undeserved favor! All we did was take God at His Word! We believed what He said! It's all of Him and none of us!

God makes a clear distinction between His people, the believers in Jesus and the people of the world. Ever since the time of Moses when God's people, Israel were on this earth God has made a distinction between His people and the rest of the world, which we read about in, Exodus 11:7, "But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians [representing the world]and Israel [representing God's people]." All the plagues that happen to the Egyptians which they brought upon themselves because of their stubbornness and unbelief, never came upon God's people, Israel.

God has always placed a difference between believers in Jesus and non-believers. God has never and will never go against the free-will of mankind. It is not in his nature to do that! God just simply says in Romans 1:17, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith." Faith is believing, meaning faith is taking God at His Word! Believers, those made just or righteous, live by taking God at His Word. The world, those who don't believe don't take God at His Word.

Everyone in this world has a choice, we read about this in the most recognizable and familiar verse of all time, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God begins with love for the entire world then we, the world, choose to stay with the world or become a whosoever. Those who choose to become a whosoever and believe in Jesus do not perish and receive everlasting life! Not complicated at all, really quite simple.

Jesus talking to his followers says in John 8:12, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." He is the Light and when you follow him you will not be in darkness. If you wake up in the morning and all around you is thick darkness and gloom and your life is without clarity maybe you should consider turning on the Light of the world, who is Jesus Christ!

Jesus again says in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Jesus tells them straight out that in Him you will have peace but, in the world, you will have issues, stuff, storms of life, but be happy, Why? Because He, Jesus has overcome the world! I am not saying that walking with Jesus is a bed of roses and all will be fantastic 24/7. But what I am saying is that with Jesus, at the end of your storm, is always peace! The kind of peace that the world can only dream about and never attain!

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The world and all that it has to offer can't give you the kind of peace that only comes from Jesus himself, The Prince of Peace! He gives the kind of peace that makes available a heart that's unafraid and not troubled! Amen!

God Bless each and every one of you who read this column and my prayer for you and your family is that you come to believe in the name of Jesus Christ and receive His LIGHT, His PEACE, His Life which is ETERNAL. Have a wonderful and safe Summer!

Love you,
Peter Larocque ◊

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Meaning of Liberty

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

As another Independence Day has come and gone, Americans had an opportunity again to reflect on the meaning of July 4th. Traditionally, we have self-identified as a nation of freedom and liberty. Yet, as we move further and further in time from the writing of the Declaration of Independence, two movements have come to obscure this national identity – one from the left and the other from the right.

The American Left celebrates Independence Day with an underlying anger. The focus is not on who enjoys liberty, but on who does not. This begins with the African slaves and continues with all consequent discrimination. It is true the U.S. has not been immune to fallen man's tendency to protect what is his and exert power over the new guy. In this sense America has always been a class society; the newest migrants being at the service of those who came before them, financially and socially. While the Irish, Greeks, Italians, etc. were discriminated against when they first immigrated to America, after a couple generations they acculturated enough to share in its middle class dream. Two ethnic groups today, however, continue to sense a glass ceiling that is not being broken. With the help of the media and the Democratic Party, Blacks and Hispanics are openly encouraged to harbor animosity against 'white people'. Just watch CNN or MSNBC for 30 minutes and you'll see it. Democratic policies, which have demonstrably failed the poor, keep these groups dependent on politicians. This is why people like Ben Carson and Candace Owens are seen as great threats to their power.

On the other hand the American Right also has warped the definition of liberty. Before modern philosophy began distorting it, individual liberty meant the 'freedom to do the good' or what one ought to do (i.e. the right thing). It has evolved, however, to correspond more to our selfish nature by becoming 'freedom to do what we want' – as long as it doesn't hurt anybody. This definition of liberty, with which everyone is familiar today, gives rise to the ethical theory consequentialism, which looks solely at the potential consequences of an act as the standard by which to judge right and wrong. Instead of asking "Is this act good?" the question becomes, "What harm does it do?" This turning of liberty's meaning is accompanied with suspicion of government. Hence, the right's expectation can be summed up in the maxim that if there is no apparent harm to another, one has a right to do it - and government should not interfere. Liberty, therefore, becomes the freedom to watch pornography, do hard drugs, and manipulate other people's weaknesses for profit. After all, the thinking goes, as long as there is consent and no one is physically hurt, I am free to do it. This is wrong. It is not liberty, but license.

By the way, the Left concurs with this skewed view of freedom only when it relates to bedroom issues. Other than sexual perversions, the Left seeks more and more governmental involvement in people's lives. Therefore, to the Left, a divorce culture, an abortion culture of 1.3 million prenatal homicides per year, "same-sex marriage", and men calling themselves women is liberty, however, virtually everything else in the public social and economic sphere the Left demands be more government involvement.

Here lies the problem: Liberty, and human rights in general, has to be based on something. It needs a source. That something is not the state or the majority. It is human nature and its intrinsic law. Read Martin Luther King's Letter from

LIBERTY: PAGE 24

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IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis

QUEEN!

Cindy Annis
VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

It was all his idea. No. Really. The entire idea of Queen was Freddie Mercury.

Mercury was born on September 5, 1946 in Zanzibar. His real name is Farrokh Bulsara. In 1963, Mercury was living with his relatives in India. While in India, he took piano lessons. At age 12, he formed a group called 'The Hectics'. Although the group didn't last very long, Mercury didn't give up on music. In 1969, he joined several underground groups that died quickly. It wasn't until 1970, that he joined the group 'Smile' with Brian May and Roger Taylor. By 1971, when bassist John Deacon joined 'Smile', the name of the group was changed to 'Queen' by Freddie Mercury.

Queen sent a demo tape to several record companies but were rejected. So, they started working with Trident productions. The deal was that albums would be given to the production company, and the production company would sell the albums to record companies. Since the group had very little money, they recorded songs during the inexpensive night shift.

Putting his art degree to good use, Mercury created the memorable Queen logo. The logo shows the Zodiac signs for each band member. The logo shows two lions hugging the big Q. The lions represent the Leo sign for members Deacon and Taylor. One crab for Cancer member May, is sitting on all of the letters with flames rising above it. Two fairies for Mercury who is a Virgo. Each fairy is sitting under the lions for protection. A large phoenix overshadows the entire logo.

On July 13, 1973 Queen released their first album. This heavy metal album wasn't immediately successful, but it was certified gold in both the UK and the US.

On March 8, 1974 Queen released their second album simply titled 'Queen II'. This is great if you like horror movies. Two songs that stand out are 'The March of the Black Queen', and 'Seven Seas of Rhye'. 'March of the Black Queen' is a six- minute song. The instrumentation isn't creepy, but the lyrics are. The last song on the album is 'Seven Seas of Rhye'. The first time I heard the song, I thought that Queen was just another demonic heavy metal group from the 70s.

By 1974, Queen had their first US tour. The tour was cut short when Brian May was diagnosed with hepatitis. While May was recovering, the band went into the studio and started working on their next album called 'Sheer Heart Attack'. This is the first album that had radio ready songs like 'Killer Queen', and 'Now I'm Here."

By 1975, the album 'A Night At The Opera' was released. The album included their staple song 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The song along, with the music video, took a long time to record. Both radio and music are magic in that your imagination has no limitations. You can mentally be transported to a bicycle race on a warm day while just sitting in a dark room. With that being said, 'Bohemian Rhapsody' was recorded in four tracks. The result put the listener in danger of going to Hell. Now, let's look at how the memorable video was created seven years before MTV went on the air. To give the illusion that the group was live, a lot of the scenes were shot on a sound stage with a white stage light pointing down at the piano. The special effects were pulled off by just pointing the camera at a television screen and capturing the image. The video was created so that the group wouldn't have to be on the BBC show 'Top of The Pops.'

In 1977, 'News of The World' was

QUEEN: PAGE 24

Lawrence's Bylli Crayone Keeps 80's Dance Music Alive

The Merrimack Valley has its own 'King of Dance Music'. His name is Bylli Crayone out of Lawrence, MA. He has been writing, recording and releasing music independently since 1991. His good friend and mentor is Gloria Estefan. His best friend is Lisa Lisa. So, by this alone you can tell he is very much connected to the 80s. So much that he has even recorded songs with 80s artists Nu Shooz, Salt N Pepa, Samantha Fox along with several others. In fact, his latest vinyl release 'Dream To Reality' features collaborations with 80s pop icons Boy George (Culture Club) and Tiffany (of 'I Think We're Alone Now' fame). The new album is a 'Yellow' vinyl release. A Web Exclusive for CrayoneMusic.com The album is somewhat like a 'Best of' type of release as it features 9 of the best Bylli Crayone songs spanning his 28 years in music. Although his style is of dance music, it can be broken down into various genres of dance ie. House, Club, Pop, Freestyle and EDM. This album is a Limited Pressing from the UK and is only available online at CrayoneMusic.com for more on Bylli Crayone, Follow or Like his #Verified accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Spotify @BylliCrayone. ◊

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

My 2019 Emmy Wish List

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

The Primetime Emmy nominations will be announced shortly and every year I like to review the past year in TV and give my Emmy Wish List, my list of who I would like to see recognized. It's always tough to remember all the great work every year, and not everyone can be nominated. Some will be overlooked, but I hope the actors and actresses that I mention here are not forgotten. So here goes…

J.K. Simmons (Counterpart) – The brilliance of J.K. Simmons' performance in the now cancelled 'Counterpart' is easy to see. Simmons plays two versions of the same man, Howard Silk. Two spies living on opposite sides of a parallel dimension. He does such a great job that you can tell which character he is playing without him even uttering a word, just by the mannerisms he uses for each character. It's an amazing performance.

Brigette Lundy-Paine (Atypical) – Brigette Lundy-Paine is the best thing about Netflix's autism dramedy 'Atypical.' She plays Casey, the sister of the autistic Sam. Casey balances being Sam's rock, and trying to adjust to a new school, and all the other stuff a teenage girl goes through. Truly one of the breakout performances of the year.

Daniel Levy (Schitt's Creek) – Daniel Levy's role as David on the delightful 'Schitt's Creek' is on the highlights of the TV year. With perhaps the best ensemble comedic cast on TV, 'Schitt's Creek' is far from a one man show. But Daniel Levy comes as close to stealing the show as anyone. The scene where he sings Tina Turner to his partner Patrick is alone worth the Emmy.

Stephen Root (Barry) – Stephen Root is one of the most unsung character actors of the last 25 years. Root is such a fine comedic actor, and his role as Fuches in HBO's 'Barry' is among the best work he's ever done. The way he transformed from an ally in season 1 to an enemy in season 2, all while maintaining his comedic chops was a joy to watch.

Gina Rodriguez (Jane The Virgin) – The massively underrated Rodriguez is consistently among the best actresses on TV, and she's long overdue for some recognition from the Academy. She gave perhaps her best performance in this final season when Jane realized that the husband she thought had died was, in fact, alive. The havoc that it created in her life gave Rodriguez a wide range of emotions to show and she showed them all flawlessly.

Rhea Seehorn (Better Call Saul) – We finally got to see Bob Odenkirk's Jimmy McGill make the full transformation into Saul Goodman last season. But it was Rhea Seehorn's work as Kim Wexler that continues to impress. The cast of 'Better Call Saul' is so good, that she sometimes gets overlooked. Let's hope she gets recognized this year.

Marc Maron (GLOW) – Maron continues to put in fine work as Sam Silvia, the failed filmmaker who now directs the 'GLOW' TV series. Just like in season 1, the comedian turned actor shows that he's more than capable of touching our hearts and being funny at the same time.

Maggie Gyllenhaal (The Deuce) – Gyllenhaal's performance as Candy evolved in season 2 into an even more interesting character. Her wonder and excitement at the path her career was taking, mixed with the fear of people finding out what she did for a living, made her into the most well-rounded character on the show.

Ian McShane (Deadwood: The Movie) – Deadwood fans finally got the sendoff that they waited for, for a decade. McShane has always been a powerhouse as Al Swearengen, but seeing Al at his most vulnerable was a perfect ending. McShane was criminally overlooked in his previous 3 seasons on Deadwood. Let's hope the academy makes things right this time and nominates him for one of the great TV characters of all time.

Others I'd love to see nominated: David Costabile (Billions), Julia Garner (Ozark), Jaime Camil (Jane The Virgin), Allison Miller (A Million Little Things), Ruth Wilson (The Affair), Freddie Highmore (The Good Doctor), Anson Mount (Star Trek: Discovery), Rob Delaney (Catastrophe), Anthony Carrigan (Barry).

The Nominations for the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards will be announced on July 16th.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

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SUE PIAZZA'S BOOK REVIEW

"Sign Off: Caught Dead in Wyoming" Book 1

By Patricia McLinn
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3. Bookmarkers

Patricia McLinn is a best-selling author with more than 45 published novels. Her works include mystery, historical romance, and woman's fiction amongst others.

It is not difficult to understand why this book's main character, E.M. Danniher, works in journalism; the author herself spent time as a newspaper writer and editor so has a volume of experience to cull from.

Elizabeth Margaret Danniher's ex-husband sends her to small time Wyoming after their divorce as a way of banishing her from the spotlight, and her prosperous life. Though the television station boasts the largest broadcast area in the state, her new job is only as a twice weekly consumer advocate for a small segment called "Helping Out."

During a second-grade school visit to the studio, one of the students approaches Miss Danniher and asks for her help. "You told people with problems to tell you and you'd help them." This child will most likely be denied parental visits with her father soon as he has been accused of murder. She needs Danniher to prove her father is innocent. This is the impetus that propels the plot of this novel - the disappearance, and possible murder of a deputy.

The author's knowledge of journalism, print and broadcast, is evident in her writing. But this is where the first chapter stymied me. I found the author's style disturbing and disjointed.

If it had not been that I needed a book to review I probably would not have gone past the first chapter. Fortunately, the book does improve.

But I thought the characters cliché. At the studio we have backstabbing co-workers, prima donna anchors, and an owner that leaves things to the anchor. We have infidelity, the requisite town gossip, a bumbling Sheriff, battling women of less than a desirable nature who believe the missing man was in love only with them and planning to leave town only with them. You have the high school sports star who should have made good but decided he was happy where he was, living a low-keyed life. He marries a woman who thought he could provide her with a way out of town. Of course, she pretends she is pregnant so that she can get him to marry her, then mysteriously miscarries. The unsuccessful high schooler ends up making good. Cliché.

While her characters are less than imaginative, she describes them nicely. "Unmoved by the wind that stirred my hair into a froth, her artful disarray of streaked blond mane reached her shoulders and framed a face dominated by blue eyes."

Her visuals of the surrounding area and its comparison to her living quarters were equally vivid. "Black and deep purple cabbage roses swarmed over a background of vile green, which matched the tile in the bathtub surround."

Through her search for wallpaper in the hardware store we are given a clear indication of the size of the town. "After page after page of pink and blue bunnies with an occasional red and blue railroad train thrown in for variety, I realized both sample books were for nurseries."

What made this book worth reading was this type of colorful language that she sprinkled throughout to describe various elements of the story.

Would I recommend? Well, this was a decent enough summertime read. The action was fast paced. Language was a pleasure to become immersed in. And, there were plot twists that caught me off guard. If you are looking for something for free you might want to give this a try.

Susan Piazza is an author, columnist, and blogger. She can be found at susanpiazzaauthor.com You can read the Prologue to her soon to be released book "A Bird Call That Isn't" under the blog of the same name. ◊

GRINDR: FROM PAGE 19

ally-minority individuals in employment, housing, public accommodations and other public services at a nationwide level. Should the bill become law it will open a path for social justice in hostile social structures.

In the meantime, there is an institution based in Lawrence, that provides support to youth from 16 to 25 years old, that are experiencing mental health challenges with a drop-in center in 15 Union St. You-Forward offers a welcoming and inviting home-like environment with a kitchen, a living room, a laundry and even bunks for the youngsters that are slipping through the cracks. This non-profit has a special focus on LGBTQ teenagers, which faces the most difficulties, providing one-on-one mentorship on assigned basis.

Initiatives like the previous mentioned, both with legislation and community-oriented, are necessary to provide safety to milliards of residents, deserving of protection. Many of which don't perceive the feeling of being wanted or accepted, showcase themselves too effeminate to be safe out the closet and carry stigmas around their sexuality and Who have the need to feel respect, dignity and due consideration in the full spectrum of society's public services, which should be provided to every citizen regardless of their sex, gender or sexual orientation. These are necessary steps to deter imprudent platforms like Grindr to proliferate at the expense of the LGBTQ community mental health, in such an unregulated manner. Being an application that facilitates sex as a sport, and not fulfilling relationships and congregations, needs to be acknowledged. Nonetheless, more participation is needed from families, friends and allies to pursue collective health and eradicate depression. "To heal toxic, self-harming and mal-adaptive defense mechanisms, on a personal basis, is just the first step" Therapist Wexelblat would say, in order to have a wholesome community that embraces all of its members. ◊

BENSON: FROM PAGE 19

From transistor radios, she and her colleagues learned about the first landing of the moon and of the massive war protests back home. The women and men she served alongside, socialized and endured long hours of duty formed her view of the world which helped seal her conviction that war should be avoided at all costs. She was a young woman and she experienced bouts of sadness punctuated with laughter, excitement and hope for a limitless life ahead.

She was an unassuming reluctant hero, not because she defeated an enemy, but because she went to heal those who did. Her own healing from the traumatic aspects of her experience was muted when she returned to the states with strict orders not to wear any insignia or uniform for fear of reprisals from the protesters. In some circles, these expectations were an example of our country's collective shame about the war.

50 years later, after a lifetime of service and reflection, Kathleen Benson of Newburyport, continues her personal mission to heal those who suffer. She is one of the volunteers for the 2nd Annual Veteran's Deep-Sea Fishing Trip from Newburyport. The event is organized in part to bring awareness about homelessness in the veteran community

If you'd like to learn more, volunteer or participate in this event on July 31st please contact Joe D'Amore

damorecos@gmail.com

Joe D'Amore, Groveland, MA ◊

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

all but destroyed the ethnic enclaves of Lawrence. Today Plainsmen Park is between Elm and Chestnut Streets on White Street. Located in the middle of the park is a large white stone dedicated to the men of the Plains neighborhood, who served their country with including three who died defending democracy; Corporal Samuel S. Fiacchino, Staff Sargent Samuel L. Hatem, and Seaman First Class Americo Sessa, all young men from the Plains neighborhood who lost their lives during World War II. The monument was dedicated October 1974 by the Plainsmen Association.

Research on the Plainsmen Association brought me to the web site, "QueencityMA.com", and I found the information on Plainsmen Park's honorees there. Cpl. Samuel S. Fiacchino graduated from the Armored Force School at Fort Knox, Kentucky as a tank mechanic. He was killed in action with the Seventh Armored Division on December 12, 1944 in Germany.

Staff Sgt. Samuel L. Hatem died in a military accident while on maneuvers in Hawaii March of 1945. He was the first member of the State Guard to die in service during World War II. He was honored with a plaque installed in the State Armory March of 1945.

Seaman First Class Americo Sessa served in the US Navy during World War II. He was a member of the Armed Guard Gun Crew on a merchant vessel. His vessel failed to arrive in port at the expected date of April 28, 1944. The next day he was presumed dead and lost in the North Atlantic.

As for Iwo Jima? I used Kenneth Bingham's book, "Black Hell" to do some research. 110,000 Americans fought there, 6,821 died defeating the entrenched Japanese. Additionally, 26,040 were wounded, including Sgt. Tony De Fusco. Two Americans were captured and killed by the Japanese. Twenty-seven Americans received the Medal of Honor during the five-week battle. The only known photo a father and son fighting together on Iwo Jima is of Seabee Chief John Smith and his son, John Jr. of the 5th Marines. John Jr. was killed in the fighting the day after the photo was taken. Chief Smith's other son Granville, also a Seabee, was wounded during the fighting earlier at Saipan and was sent home due to his wounds. One day after Iwo Jima was declared "secure" by senior Military Leadership, over 250 Japanese troops were killed after they launched a "banzai" type attack against Allied forces. One Seabee Battalion, Naval Construction Battalion 133, "the Kangaroos" lost 40 men killed in action, with another 142 wounded, and one missing in action.

Belleau Wood during World War I, Iwo Jima during World War II, the Chosen Reservoir of the Korea War, and Siege of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War, are all considered sacred to US Marines. I was honored today, to listen to a concert, and have a cigar with two members of the Greatest Generation who survived one of the bloodiest battles in US History!

I'd like to encourage readers who are eligible to join, but who need more information on organizations such as the VFW, the American Legion, the AMVETS, the Marine Corp League, the Seabee Veterans of America, to contact these Veteran's Organization on line, call their town's VSO, or stop by a local post. Increasing membership rolls gives these organizations "strength in numbers" and protects the rights of all Veterans.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 22 years. If you know a World War II Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com. ◊

TEEN TALK with ABBY

Meals for Sudan and the Art of a Social Media Hoax

Abby Juknavorian
TEEN TALK COLUMNIST

When opening almost any social media page in recent weeks, it seemed like every feed was flooded with a sea-colored blue, leaving many to ask - what is all this for?

In recent weeks, social media has been taken by storm with horror stories of the current unrest in Sudan for the Sudanese people.

Starting out as small protests against rising bread prices - and the economic problems that came with it - these protests quickly gained traction and became much larger anti-government demonstrations.

Now labeled as a massacre of the people, many around the world are taking notice and wanting to help. All across social media, influencers and celebrities have started to tag and share posts with #blueforsudan, the color representing unity and solidarity with the Sudanee people. Quickly though, many accounts began popping up with one purpose only, to gain profit off unverified promises.

The Sudan Meal Project accounts began popping up on the stories of many of my classmates and following list on Instagram only a few days after the crisis hit the major news stations.

Accounts like @sudanmealprojectcharity or @sudanmealofficial began to share posts promising that if you shared this post as well, they would donate meals to Sudanese children and families. Any young person would look at these and say sure! What harm can be done in helping to provide better life quality and aid to all these people? Well, a lot - especially if you're not really helping to begin with.

The account @ExposingInstaScams, created by a young man in California, quickly popped up and began exposing all these fake Sudan aid pages and fake environmental projects. Even though this kid has managed to expose the truth behind many of these fake accounts and their untruthful postings, the question of why people keep feeding into these lies still stands.

With the rise of the internet, it has become much easier for the world to have a first look into the problems people face all over the globe.

One can also find safe, trustworthy, nonprofits to donate supplies and money to in order to aid the people in their time of need. With all these helpful charities being so easily accessible, why do social media users still repost all these false advertisements? The simple, tried and true answer is the influence.

Most teens want people to look at their accounts and say, "Wow, this person is really amazing! They're really trying to make a difference in the world!"

In fact, many of my friends have reposted these unverified aid accounts and posts on their pages and stories. The sad fact is that many of them only do it for this type of recognition and don't really attempt to verify the source and if they are really helping those suffering people of other nations.

To all of these challenges though, I propose a solution. Helping people should never be about recognition, it should be about reward. The reward being the happiness and gratefulness of others, and your own self-satisfaction that you did the right thing and truly made a difference in someone's life (no matter how big or how small).

Too often we can get defensive and say, 'they don't have the money to donate to places like The Red Cross or UNICEF' and insist that the only way to help is by raising awareness on the internet.

News flash, it's not.

It costs absolutely nothing more than time and effort to go down to your local soup kitchen and help feed people less fortunate than yourself - or to find a local shelter to help organize supplies for families, perhaps you could even donate your old clothes to those in need.

Everywhere in this world, communities can come together to help others in their worst hours.

The best thing to do now is not to sit behind your screen and "slack-tivate" but to go out and make a difference to show the world that you really care.

Looking to help the Sudanese people? Visit UNICEF's website for more information. To get involved in your own community, visit websites like unitedway.org in order to find volunteer opportunities near you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: MUCH OF THE MONEY COLLECTED BY UNICEF & UNITED WAY RARELY GOES TO THOSE MOST IN NEED. BUT DON'T JUST TRUST OUR WORD, DO AS ABBY SAYS AND RESEARCH THESE THINGS YOURSELF. ◊

Abigail Juknavorian is a junior in high school and a resident of Methuen. She is a member of the YMCA Youth and Government Press Corps and a delegate to the UMASS Lowell Model UN.

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An Imperfect Independence Denies A Doctor Basic Rights

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

This month, as the nation celebrates Independence from England, as my friend Kevin Leach correctly insists, we must also consider the sectors of the country where the founding principles are still observed only in the breach.

I have written here earlier about progressive Massachusetts' medical board coercing, on behalf of major employers, physicians to confess, in the classic progressive practice called "Criticism & Self-criticism," and forcing physicians to live without any income until they do so. Crony capitalism of course also has a long history in progressive regimes right from the start. My friend's mother was held hostage by progressives in the Hungarian Secret Police's basement prison for months until her husband signed over his supermarket chain to the people's commissar.

Which brings us to Dr. Sheikh in California's Central Valley, who was on course to completing her residency in family medicine and looking forward to entering a primary care practice. It so happens that Dr. Sheikh's husband had angered a Big Tech company by insisting on American laws being followed. The next thing that happened, seemingly all on its own, was a staff member at the public County hospital where she was a resident, suddenly sent her confidential personnel records over to the California Medical Board without her signed consent or any query initiated by the Board itself.

Dr. Sheikh's mentors in the training program had filed sworn affidavits attesting to her meeting California's 24-month training requirement and that she was entitled to being granted a medical license.

Rather than follow the law, however, a Board employee contrived to claim that Dr. Sheikh had not completed 24 months of residency training. This naturally was contrary to the facts, but when a doctor has been targeted by the swamp, that never matters. The denial of her license was apparently signed by a member of the Board who then denied to Dr. Sheikh that she had been anywhere near Sacramento on that date. And Board staff repeatedly denied her request for a public hearing on the denial.

It has been ten years since Dr. Sheikh has been denied a public hearing at the Board, at state court, at federal district court and in the 9th Circuit court of appeals. A magistrate issued a subpoena to the Board to produce the evidence upon which the license was denied. The California Attorney General refused to comply and had the magistrate thrown off the case.

A second magistrate assigned to the case held a hearing and then again issued a subpoena for the documents. The second magistrate was also thrown off the case and a third magistrate issued an order agreeing with the Attorney General and the Board that they may deny a license and keep the documents secret. This third magistrate had officially not been assigned the case at all.

Dr. Sheikh did not receive equal protection in Federal courts either. California's Attorney General simply refused to turn over the documents and the judges all said Oh, OK!

Yes, gentle reader, this happened in the United States of America, some 230 years after Independence from England.

When you ask all the tenured law professors with guaranteed salaries and other luminaries, who routinely comment on the legal system, how such a thing could come to pass, they suddenly fall silent, lest they be forced to admit the truth that if some powerful entity, be it a politician, a district attorney or a corporation, targets someone, there is no system in place to ensure that the fundamentals of American fairness, the very principles that Washington and others risked their own lives for, will be respected even in the slightest.

Violet Amirault discovered that to her dismay here in Massachusetts, Attorney John O'Hara discovered that to his dismay in Brooklyn NY, and Dr. Sheikh has discovered that to her dismay in California.

And because all the tenured law professors with guaranteed salaries are loath to change this for the better, no improvement may be expected.

Happy Independence Day! ◊

Surviving Summer Barbecue Season

Rick Bellanti
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Here we are once again smack in the middle of summer. Time to celebrate the nice weather and long weekends. We are now halfway through the year, time to look back and celebrate any achievements we may have had during the past six months. No matter how small of an achievement, it is always good to look back and notice what we have accomplished since the beginning of the year. It may have been something as simple as not gaining any weight, to losing some weight, quitting smoking, running a marathon or just simply living life in a positive way. Keep going!

I find this time of year is easier to stay on track, than the winter months. The weather for one thing, is much nicer and you can get out for walks and runs and enjoy the fresh summer air. (Even walking your pet is more enjoyable). The warmer weather brings out all the freshly grown vegetables. If you have not started a program to eat healthier yet, then this is the perfect time of the year to start.

The winter months are all about staying inside keeping warm, making comfort food and celebrating holiday parties, where temptations are at their peak. I always say, don't let a month on the calendar dictate how you will eat based on these holidays or the time of year.

Try to maintain a balance like always; keep up with your exercise routines and continue to hit that gym (maybe even extra if you are planning on going to eat more at an upcoming barbeque with friends). Make good food choices when at these get togethers, sticking to salads and healthy vegetable dishes, pick lean meats and fish, keeping away from the trigger foods like breads, sweets, pasta and potato salads, and (my favorite) ice cream. If it's a potluck meal you are attending, then bring your own healthy food to share so at least you have a dish you know is healthy and you can enjoy,such as veggie platters and fresh salads or fruit salads (just watch the sugar content).

Don't let the name, salad, fool you, keep away as much as you can from pasta salads and potato salads, not just for the carbohydrates but for the fats that are mixed in within them. Stick to vegetable salads or cut up veggies. Be sure to always load up on the vegetables first before diving into the meats. If you choose to have a burger, try skipping the bun and wrap the burger in lettuce, you will be surprised how much better it tastes because of the starchy breads that mask the true taste of the meats.

I highly recommended staying away from sugary sodas, energy drinks, coffee and alcoholic beverages, adding unnecessary calories and sugars. Drinking water is so important; remember your daily water should be half of your body weight in ounces daily, keeping you hydrated in these hotter months, fuller longer and flushing out your system. The holidays are about celebrating with family and friends and not about dieting, so indulge if you want to, but keep it within moderation.

Don't forget, summer get togethers with friends and family are not just about eating! Have some fun, throw a ball around with the kids, play with the dog or go for a swim. Any activity will vamp up your metabolism and burn some of those calories you are consuming and if you are being active, then you are not hovering over the picnic table eating chips and salsa.

The idea is to go out, enjoy the summer weather, and be with friends and family; you do not want to deprive yourself of the fun, company, and food you love. Remember this is a lifelong commitment and a few treats along the way are not going to reverse all your hard work. A healthy lifestyle is about making good healthy choices. Stay hydrated, watch your portions, think fresh fruits and vegetables and enjoy your summer!

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs and has lost 160 lbs. since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here. ◊

QUEEN: FROM 21

released. The album has two of the most played songs on it. Both 'We Are The Champions', and 'We Will Rock You' are still overplayed on New England radio stations. The album went platinum four times in the US and twice in the UK.

In 1981, Queen and David Bowie recorded 'Under Pressure'. Queen had just gotten back into the recording studio in Montreal to lay down some track for their next album. David Bowie who lived near the studio came by to jam with the boys. During the jam session, a guitar riff was invented. From there, Bowie added in finger snaps and hand claps. The lyrics were literally whatever Bowie and Mercury could come up with at the time.

Moving forward to 1987, Mercury was diagnosed HIV positive. The rumors of him being ill didn't start until 1988 when his fans saw him looking very ill. His illness didn't stop him from recording songs with the band. By November 24, 1991, Mercury died from bronchial pneumonia which he got as a result of AIDS.

One of their only songs 'Bohemian Rhapsody' became popular again when it was featured in the classic comedy 'Wayne's World'. Not only was the song in the movie, but a brand-new music video that featured scenes from the movie was released.

I hope you enjoyed the story of Queen. *Tune into Cindy's Vinyl Vault on AM 980 WCAP every Sunday night at 10, Monday night at 11, and Wednesday night at 10. There, you'll hear the best songs from Queen and the best songs from the 50s, 60s 70s, and 80s. Remember it's not how old it is, but how great it sounds.* ◊

IN-VITRO: FROM 20

Birmingham Jail and you will see how civil rights leaders understood human rights to be based upon natural law. Like Augustine and Aquinas before him, MLK held that if any civil law contradicts natural law it must be resisted because, in essence, it is null and void. Rights are not granted by the state, or by our own selfish desires, but are inherent in the nature of the human being.

Therefore, the term 'good' must be understood to mean that which fulfills natural human inclination, enabling one to flourish, and contributing to the fulfillment of the individual, family, and society. Liberty means the freedom to do the good. We are not at liberty to contradict the basic tenets of natural law, despite any disordered desire or attraction to them, such as defying legitimate authority, killing the innocent (murder, abortion, euthanasia), lust and sex outside marriage (pornography, fornication, sodomy, adultery), stealing, coveting, or lying. All these acts violate human nature and are human wrongs, not human rights. They diminish the well being of all. There is no "pride" in this.

We live in an increasingly divided and isolated nation. Only when we rediscover that independence from Britain does not mean independence from God, others, and human nature itself, will we stop the decline of what was once an independent country with great promise.

Paul Murano teaches college philosophy and theology and is the talk host of 'Beneath the Surface' radio show and podcast. Check out Paul's website at Paulmurano.com. Email him at PJDM@aol.com.

Follow the Valley Patriot on Facebook and Twitter

KettlePizza, LLC, Selected by Trump Administration to Represent MA in 3rd Annual "Made in America" Product Showcase at White House

NORTH ANDOVER, - KettlePizza, LLC, a leading manufacturer of wood-fired pizza oven kits for charcoal style kettle grills and gas grills, has been selected to represent Massachusetts at the White House on Monday, July 15 in the third annual "Made in America" product showcase.

"From the day we were founded in 2010, KettlePizza has been committed to sourcing as many components as possible from American suppliers creating U.S. jobs. We build our pizza oven kits in the United States because we believe it's the right thing to do for our country," said KettlePizza President Al Contarino.

For a product to be called "Made in USA," or claimed to be of domestic origin without qualifications or limits on the claim, the product must be "all or virtually all" made in the United States, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

"All or virtually all" means that all significant parts and processing that go into the product must be of U.S. origin. "We are excited to once again host businesses from all 50 states at the White House to highlight and celebrate American-made products," a White House official said. "In today's booming economy, President Trump and his Administration are proud to tout businesses that create jobs and support our local communities."

KettlePizza Made in the USA pizza oven turn a kettle-style grill, like a Weber, and propane gas grills, into an affordable backyard, wood-fired pizza oven. Businesses from each of the 50 states have been invited to display their products made and produced in the United States.

For more information about KettlePizza Pizza Oven Kits, please visit www.KettlePizza.com.

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ANDOVER

Russell & Sharon McGrath, Abdullah Chahin & Neda Safadi, $675,000, 20 St James Dr Unit 20

Thomas D & Denise L Keough, Meredith E & John H Reid IV, $650,000, 6 Countryside Wy

William F Douty III, Heather & John W Normandie IV, $540,000, 136 Salem St

Elsie H Dubocq Est & Renee J Vigoroso & William E Dubocq III, JJG Construction LLC, $450,000, 85 High Plain Rd

Michael T & Amanda J Phillips, Romy Eichner, $413,000, 6 Burnham Rd

Joseph R & Katherinemary I /Katherine Mary I Malarney, Gwendolyn Cugine, $1,355,000, 12 Basswood Ln

Monica R Cowart, Christina Rogers, $380,000, 7 Shepley St

Raymond S Filocoma & Debra L Filocoma/Debra L Falvey & Denise A Cariello , Julio C Rodriguez, $460,000, 1 Powder Mill Sq Unit 405A

Hong Du, Polly A Palacios, $440,000, 87 Chandler Rd

Carol J & Stephen D Sawin, John F & Denise Engelhart, $689,000, 215 Lowell St

Ann Kimberley Benett/Ann Kimberley Williams Bennett & Louis Emerson Williams Est, Kumarappan Sambamurthi, $175,000, 70C Washington Park Dr Unit 10

Debra Ogston & Joseph Richard Saker, Peter V & Loyce A Lawlor, $899,900, 284 North Main St

Richard S Barry & Yvette Villa-Barry, Shouyang Shi & Qiaoyi You, $529,000, 39 Clark Rd

Hong-Van M Le & Cat Si D Le/Cat-Si D Le, Gary W McCauley Tr & Gary W McCauley 2009 Revocable Trust, $910,000, 4 Orchard St

Robert J & Norma H Cohen, Richard H Giles & Chun Li Wu, $963,000, 9 Alison Wy

Marilyn M Harvey/Marylyn M Lewis/Marylyn Lewis Harvey, Jonathan G & Ashley A Carlson, $240,000, 5 Henderson Ave

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Indu & Gita I Muni, $1,425,000, 19 Crenshaw Ln Unit 9-1

Andres Michel Uribe & Lisa Moore, Amit & Vanessa Gonsalves, $545,000, 348 River Rd Unit 3

Kara Christine & Renzo Iturrino, William V Mangan III & Allison E O'Malley, $601,000, 8 Princeton Ave

Michelle Kudirka & Julie Viola, Mark Bree & Karissa Utzat, $734,000, 55 Gray Rd

Young Mi & Jong Woo Kim, Greger & Liane Andersson, $685,000, 20 Woodhaven Dr

Third Floor Associates LLC, Susan N Big Tr & Susan Big Trust, $259,000, 4 Longwood Dr Unit 401

Andrew C & Cathy L Shimberg, Paul & Sharon Leuzzi, $1,180,000, 24 Muirfield Ct Unit 5-2

Daniel E & Danielle Gillis, Gaston Federico Menarvino & Maria Emilia Espetxe, $615,000, 38 Juniper Rd

Matthew H & Kathleen Z Quill, Rohit Jain & Queenal Vrishni, $669,000, 1 Ellsworth Rd

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Laura Malouf, $1,370,000, 29 Crenshaw Ln Unit 14-4

Andre M & Elisabeth Aoun, Karim S & Lindsey Fatehi, $685,000, 7 Hunter Dr

Holly J & Steven J Miller, Stephanie & Brian Mace, $525,000, 101 Summer St

Caryn L Baker/Caryn Baker Hansford & Jarred Hansford, Jennifer Jasilewicz, $227,500, 60 Center St Unit 6

Debra Laquidara, Sampath Chrysantha Abeylath & Ruchira Prasangi Gunawardena, $448,500, 4 Alderbrook Rd

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Richard J & Susan E Simons, Patrick J & Cheryl A Ledden, $1,144,900, 6 Meadow View Ln

Partridge Hill Road Realty Trust & Douglas J & Susan K DeMoulas Trs , Xuedong Jiang & Xing Dong, $1,050,000, 9 Partridge Hill Rd

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Colleen Goddard, John Kole & Aimee Leonard, $1,324,000, 51 Hidden Rd

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Natalia J Reszka-Blanco & Jose Tomas Blanco Mezquita, Jiri Brabec, $684,999, 15 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 30

Senad Resic/Senda Resie, Angelo Athanasopoulos & Jennifer Barresi, $382,500, 250 North Main St Unit 8

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Donna M & John J Connolly, Chris A Heitmann & Chiuying Lu, $925,000, 3 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 11-3

Michael & Anne White, Jeffrey D Allen & Kimberly Sauers Allen, $1,005,000, 2 Harper Cir

Sang H & Ellen Lee, Perla & Scott Redfern, $945,000, 7 Heritage Ln

Loretta & Pasquale A Alibrandi, Charles J DiPerri Jr & Jane C DiPerri, $775,000, 22 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 4-2

Charles E & Margaret B Crockett, Timm A Triplett & donna K Slonim, $1,010,000, 2 Whispering Pines Dr

David W & Jean M Koulouris, Erik & Lisa Johnson, $685,000, 1 Sugarbush Ln

Susan P Burnley, Kimberly & Brian Adams, $793,000, 1 Montclair Ave

Gary W McCauley Tr & Gary W McCauley 2009 Revocable Trust, Silvia Alberta, $710,000, 1 Pioneer Cir

John & Sarah A Sarni Trs & Sarni MA Realty Trust, Corinne & Kiernan O'Neil, $736,000, 32 Ballardvale Rd

Denis M Mathiowetz, Feng Liang & Jinping Geng, $432,500, 18 Dale St Unit 1D

John & Nancy & Michael D Doto TR & 24 Bellevue Road Realty Trust, Brian M Colby & Rosa M Mazzeo, $580,000, 24 Bellevue Rd

Dania Gonzalez Guzman, Lihui Zhou, $700,000, 22 Cuba St

LAWRENCE

Valery E Jerez, Juan Lopez Vasquez & Laudy D Ortiz, $350,000, 350-352 South Union St

German D Pimentel, Hugo E & Maria L DeLeon, $512,500, 24-26 May St

Mark & Theresa Berube, Daniel Berube, $175,000, 9 Silesia Ct

Bart J McHugh Tr & 293 Hampshire Realty Trust, 6-12 Hampshire Street LLC, $130,000, 293 Hampshire St

Juan F Dominguez, Miguel A Romero Jimenez & Estefany Rosa Duran, $341,000, 23 Bodwell St

Juana Gomez/Juana Armstrong & Brad Armstrong, Freddy & Josefina Abreu, $185,000, 22A Pleasant St Unit 6

Christ-Sco Corp, Doel Lopez & Raquel Rivera, $305,000, 115 Prospect St Unit 3

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EZ Living LLC, Ambrioris Sanchez & Maria E Abreu, $355,000, 459 Lowell St

Kimberly M Love-Pritchard, Rafael E Ruiz & Zoila M Gomez, $355,000, 12 Crestshire Dr

Catherine McCarthy, Premium Properties Inc, $391,245, 85-87 Shawsheen Rd

Jorge Ramos, Rayner Torres, $250,000, 8 Osgood St

Robert J DeBenedetto Jr & Robert J DeBenedetto Sr Life Est, John Hernandez, $365,500, 34-36 Smith St

George Koontz, Leonardo Batista & Hilaria Pasqual, $320,000, 9 Halsey St

Christ-Sco Corp, Justin Brown, $310,000, 113 Prospect St Unit 2

Joseph & Kersten Carberry/Kersten Theberge, Freddy Eduardo Zamora, $269,900, 90 Greenfield St

Caboose Realty Trust & John Boddy Tr, Kilvis Moreno Tr & 436 South Union Street Realty Trust, $350,000, 253 Erving Ave

Jitendra Patel Tr & 136 Essex Realty Trust, Renov8 Homes LLC, $360,000, 136-140 Essex St

Thirty Ridgewood Circle Realty Trust & Rita M Rozumek Tr, Rebecca Katherine & Reynaldo Pagan, $355,000, 30 Ridgewood Cir

Scott E & Catherine Hubley, Daniel Ramirez, $338,000, 11 Winston Dr

Rebecca Pagan Tr/Rebecca Brown Tr & Reagan Brown Tr & Brown Realty Trust, Jose L DeLeon & Dayra Mercado, $240,000, 75 Weare St Unit 2

Enrique G Gil Gabin, Euriz Inoa, $280,000, 7-9 Bennington St

John M Sammataro, Estela Reyes, $250,000, 90-94 Maple St

John M Sammataro, Estela Reyes, $50,000, 100 Maple St

Paul Nartiff Jr, Gilberto C Taveras, $275,000, 22 Amherst St

Admandred LLC, Jennifer Garcia, $222,000, 180 Exchange St

463-465 South Broadway Lawrence Nominee Trust & Dong Won Kim Tr, Swathi LLC, $250,000, 463-465 South Broadway

Jessica M & Michael Trovato, Lyn R Kertesz, $307,000, 18 Louisburg St

Reina Santiago & Angel Reyes, Jose S Granillos, $507,000, 594-594A Andover St

North Shore Receivership & Development LLC, Maryluz DeJesus, $299,700, 538 Andover St

Abdo G & Samaria C Hashem, Daisy J Familia, $155,000, 242 Mount Vernon St Unit 8

Edrian Mendez Brito, Claude Jean Godard, $435,000, 7-9 Keighley Ct

James V Piemonte, Massachusetts Electric Co, $1,000,000, 316 Common St

Martin R Dallon Tr & Dallon Family 2011 Irrevocable Realty Trust, Lamacchia Development LLC, $265,000, 50 Hillside Ave

Ouellette 2017 Trust & Bryan D & Beverly A Ouellette Trs, Saby Perez Perez, $320,000, 96 Sylvester St

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Bernard F Dunn & Morie L Sherry-Dunn, Kenneth E & Sharlene D Brown, $113,700, 170 Gilbert St

Stacey & Christopher King, Nelson Potter, $340,000, 32 Lenox Cir

Elmer Sandoval, Thelmo Cruz & Concepcion Hernandez, $327,000, 182 Andover St

Tania Maria & Mercededs G Cruz/Mercedes G Gomez, Rivas Properties LLC, $115,500, 262 East Haverhill St Unit 13

Byron X Obando & Sheila V Cintron, Tambe Jude Ebai, $384,000, 87 Knox St

Yanilsa Nunez & Francisco Ramirez, Hermes M Orozco Perez, $360,000, 202 Willow St

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Randy M Ovalles & Gianna Bierd Ovalles, Gregorio B Bierd & Sandra Hidalgo De Bierd, $350,000, 5-7 Caulkins Ct

Dario Garcia, Luis De La Cruz & Altagracia Duran De La Cruz, $460,000, 161-163 Foster St

U S Bank N A Tr, Darios Home Improvement Inc, $357,024.15, 23-25 Bailey St

Leandro M Martinez & Doris Heredia & Yoany A Cruz-Encarnacion, Roselio Cepeda & Juliana Reyes, $450,000, 143A-143B Bennington St

Nuris A Deabad, Marvin G Martinez, $495,000, 58-60 Bellevue St

Frenchy E Vidal Maldonado, Top-Tier Investments LLC, $135,000, 2 Hazel Pl

Lorenzo De La Cruz, Paula Johnson, $290,000, 10 Byron Ave

Edward J Marquis III Est & Kristen Seymour, Cedar Real Estate Corp, $179,000, 592 South Union St

Sui V Thu Tr & Muoi Truong Tr & Thu Truong 2013 Trust, Elias Fernandez & Ana Gonzalez, $490,000, 95-97 Osgood St Unit 97

Leandro & Alfonsina Antigua, Maria J Torres & Andres Martinez, $282,000, 84 Perry

REAL ESTATE FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Ave

Ryan Rourke, Alba Yris Vasquez & Tomas Tejada, $245,000, 73 Butler St

Steven J Goulet Tr & Homestead Realty Trust, Lorennys Vasquez, $135,000, 264 East Haverhill St Unit 16

Hung Ong, Kim Thi & Philip Tran, $185,000, 16 Tyler St

Jose L Ovalles, Francisco A Abad, $380,000, 37 Hillside Ave

Union Milford Homes LLC, Raymunda Reyes Rosario, $175,000, 26 Milford St

Sasha L Torres & Lilberto D DeLaCruz, Carlos Y Manana Jr, $349,000, 69 Middlebury St

Milagros caban, Esmeralda Lopez, $315,000, 84 Amherst St

Ana Rodriguez, David & Jeanette Arce, $285,000, 4A Salem St

Junior & Nilce Sanchez, NSP Residential LLC, $280,000, 269 Haverhill St

NSP Residential LLC, Yunior Sanchez & Yolanda Mejia, $358,250, 269 Haverhill St

Russellyne H Welch, Charles J Carkin, $319,900, 15 Sparkle Dr

Lisa Aloisi & Rena Rudy, Yoeuth & Ana Lidia Pang, $335,000, 6 Marique Dr

Luisa Azeez, Lazaro & Jose Alfaro, $495,000, 61-63 Olive Ave

Felix E Pena & Sandra Santana Paulino de Pena, Randy R Baez, $260,000, 46 Juniper St

BMI Realty LLC, Adalgicia Duran & Nicolas Santos, $252,000, 231 Ferry St

Denise Realty LLC, Ricardo Esteban-Lopez & Luisa Godinez Clemente, $390,000, 238-240 Lawrence St

Robyn Martin & Eleanor J Soen Est/Eleanor V Soen Est, Jose L Garcia, $265,000, 34 Ridgewood Cir

Flabia Abella, Jose Rodriguez, $385,000, 19 Logan St

Ezequiel C Taveras, Enoc Taveras, $147,000, 17 Washington St

Ezequiel C Taveras, Enoc Taveras, $125,000, 17 Bedford St

Ezequiel C Taveras, Enoc Taveras, $118,000, 13-15 Bedford St

James Mwangi & Susan Wambui Muita/Susan Ngatha, Susan Wambui Muita, $16,750, 6 Leeds Ter

Lucille & Willard C Leeman, Ruddy A Almanzar Villa, $199,900, 16 Orchard St

Carmen Soler, Manolo H Soler, $451,000, 142-144 Chester St

James A Barbeau, JIN Properties LLC, $290,000, 101-103 Olive Ave

Ursula H Beaudry Est & Jason M Lindsay, Randy Tucker Peterson & Sarin Ay, $103,000, 32A Shawsheen Ct Unit 15

Steffany Espinal Trinidad & Daniel Trinidad, Jose A Burgos Jimenez & Adalis Bienvenida Balbuena Feliz, $484,000, 85-87 Marble Ave

Maria Teresa Martinez , Mary Sanchez, $230,000, 89 Foster St

Hermes V Godoy, Anayuris Perez Perez, $465,000, 1 Haverhill St

Eddy I Guzman, Piudy Vincente Guzman & Soribel M Garcia Abreu, $465,000, 105-107 Cambridge St

Jose Blanco, Noemi Parrilla, $320,000, 97-99 Myrtle St

Chloe LLC, Katherine Reyes Gonzalez & Nicauris Ramos Gonzalez, $560,000, 433-435 Riverside Dr

Nancy L Alon, Edwin Contreras Bonilla & Matilde Polanco & Karina Minaya, $435,500, 59-61 Salem St

Marisol Difo, Maria C Lantigua Angeles & Felix Velez, $425,000, 175-177 Sanborn St

Diana M Gonzalez & Diana M Herrera, Algelis Campusano, $480,000, 77 May St

RJP Construction & Development Inc, Adolfo Polanco & Jhosy Maria, $418,000, 103-105 Bowdoin St

Marsha Friedrich, Linda A Tavares, $220,000, 211 Olive Ave

Andres Delarosa, Seneida Beltre De Diplan & Jorge Diplan, $493,500, 84-86 Avon St

6-12 Hampshire Street LLC, Jelli Realty LLC, $199,900, 293 Hampshire St

Edwin M & Vianchi Luciano, Nora Ramirez Perdomo, $425,000, 42-44 Ohio Ave

METHUEN

Rosa N Reyes, John A Ricci & John M Villanueva, $447,000, 34 Haymeadow Rd

Jinx L Desell, Elsa C Figueroa, $330,000, 178 East St

US Bank Trust NA Tr, Miralva Pagan, $440,000, 8 Treetop Wy

Elena Bonaventura, Gregory L Owen, $319,913, 516 Jackson St

Rose & Maurice Desrosiers, Rachel J Frechette, $290,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 4-104

Kelly Conroy, Jeanine N Ward, $185,000, 52 High St Unit 2

Maurice J Bouchard/Maruice J Bouchard & Cecile C Bouchard, Joseph & Betty Portada, $588,000, 13 Hartshorne Wy Unit 175

Paul R & Lorraine L Higginbottom Trs & Higginbottom Family Trust, Marwane G Cherfane, $255,000, 40 Christopher Dr Unit 72

Carol A Belluardo & Dina L Latulippe & Karen Lee Bertolami, Christopher L Navarro, $370,000, 143 Washington St

Toll MA IV LLC, Brett W Cox Tr & Cox Irrevocable Trust, $654,168, 72 Pine Tree Dr Unit 129

Pinnacle Builders LLC, John C & Renee A Donnelly, $580,990, 4 Liams Ln

Leslie J Kent, Hermaine J Jean, $190,000, 5 Bentley Cir Unit 12

Debra Rillahan , Lorraine McGovern, $350,000, 14 Palanga St

Stephen L & Tina J Joubert, Hector Morrobel, $405,000, 22 Marlborough Ave

Roy W Schwarzenberg Tr & Schwarzenberg Family Irrevocable Trust, Shenty & Juan P Berrios, $315,000, 69 Ames St

Maple Park Reserve LLC, Ariel A Montas & Jenny A Montas, $589,900, 3 Mariah Dr

Adrian Clavijo Est & Adrian C Santiago, Miguel Cuevas Cabrera, $325,000, 155-157 Tenney St

Joanna Rodriguez & Eneida Ocasio, Gary D Levesque & Kara M McDonough, $350,000, 19 Brown Ct

RFR Development Inc, GAP Apartments Methuen LLC, $688,425, 95-101 Phillips St

Yohanni E Cuevas/Yohanni E Castaldi & Enrico T Castaldi, Luis Guzman & Olga Cacho, $205,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 18D

Ronald J Aufiero, Mohamed Fadli, $162,500, 48 High St Unit 15

John Azevedo Jr, Sol Trieu & Khai X Son, $362,000, 2 Applewood Ln

Paula M Henrick Tr & Jerome Family Nominee Trust, Erin A Saba, $310,000, 20 Ruskin Ave

Thomas & Christina Blair/Christina Luciano, Nancy Lauzon & Daniel Scott Levine, $265,000, 45 Washington St Unit D-18

Five C Investments LLC, Jessica Lee Vandewalle & Kori Rabida, $479,900, 5 Bedford St

Jose A & Franselina Espinal/Francelina Espinal, Kevin L & Janet Dunn, $470,000, 41 Fenwick Cir

Kirby Kattar-Shaheen/Kirby Mastrangelo, Gaetano DiStefano, $350,000, 1 Hayes St

Matthew C & Bethany L Monteith, Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, $240,000, 45 Railroad St

David R & Lindsay M Tiney, Mischa R McFarland, $430,550, 23 Shirley Ave

Ann Marie Bolduc, Stephen Mahnke & Sara Edquist, $331,000, 54 Harris St

Philip J & Sandra E Bruneau, Lucinda Joseph & Lisbette Joseph, $440,000, 129 Milk St

Toll MA IV LLC, Groves Family Trust & Dean L Groves Tr & Patricia A Groves Tr, $601,521, 86 Pine Tree Dr Unit 122

Norah Hillis-Brown & Gail Ann Witham, Wysnar A Marte Tr & 109-111 Spruce Street Realty Trust, $239,900, 29 Ashland Ave

Jason R & Lyn A Williams, Kenan & Ranjana Resic, $445,000, 19 Lancaster Rd

333 Place Lane Realty Trust & Rachel R LaCascia Tr, Kelsie Ulrick, $189,900, 21 Hampshire Rd Unit 306

Heba Alolabi & Samer Abdelsalam, Lucas Russell & Nicholas Russell, $437,500, 45 Ayers Village Rd

Richard & Carol Beaulieu Family Trust & Richard J Beaulieu Tr & Linda Kirker Tr, Linda Kirker & John Lever, $285,000, 100-102 Jackson St

Gabriela Rasuk, Kelling S Florentino, $241,750, 92 Railroad St Unit A

James Nardone, Natalya O Kuznetsova, $310,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 3-210

Marygrace N & James J Goglia Trs & Marygrace N Goglia Revocable Trust, Colleen A & John Sarantakis, $364,000, 17 Joy Ter

Cynthis & Antonio Lopez, Carlos A DaSilva, $365,000, 78 Ayer St

Rosario Russo, James Scott Peters, $151,000, Erie Rd

Ivanka Nestorova, Jeffrey Collett, $236,000, 7 Park Ave Unit 2

Joan A Navarria, Priscila Nogueira Lopes, $468,000, 5-7 Kensington Ave

Angela Gallant, Thomas Delaney & Michael Delaney, $244,900, 20 Washington St Unit 30

Jessica M Strasnick Tr & Strasnick Family Trust, Joseph & Ruth Jacob, $435,000, 46 Rolling Ridge Ln

Guillermo Alfredo Guante, Diogenes T Camilo-Moronta, $355,000, 209 Oakland Ave

Stanley E & Paula M Wood, Sanoussi Kalle & Bountouraby Samoura, $365,000, 44 Elmore St

John Graviano Tr & Termini Realty Trust/Termini Relaty Trust, Fazil M & Yasmeen M Zakaria, $160,000, 104D Ford St

Wayne Medeiros, Stephen Angelo Jr, $251,250, 20 Washington St Unit 26

William A & Kathryn A Stover, Patrick Daniel & Samantha Rose Noonan, $362,000, 55 Emsley Ter

Brian D Earnshaw, Shawn E Malloy, $300,000, 41 Currier Ave

Toll MA IV LLC, Brenan & Hilary McCarragher, $674,991, 91 Pine Tree Dr Unit 64

Marilyn Cieslik Long Tr & Marilyn C Long 2015 Family Trust, Richard Comunale & Jennifer Jason, $275,000, 21 Almont St

Joshua K & Danielle M Flanagan, Jorge & Lilybeth Ramos, $395,000, 148 Pitman St

Rose Marie T Vaughan, Deborah J Coady, $269,900, 21C Oak St

Christopher Dowd, Philip J Lahey Jr & Francine M Lahey, $204,000, 3 Bentley Cir Unit 13

Victoria Landry/Victoria Olson, Moeketsi T & Kayla A Molai, $200,000, 15 Armstrong Ave

Nicolas Santos, Armando J Telles & Elsa Sucely Fuentes-Espina, $524,000, 99-99 1/2 Boston St

Jeffrey L & Kerrianne J Fredriksen, Nancy W Jean-Louis, $414,900, 138 Tyler St

Eddie & Kelly Raposo/Kelly Wood, Krish B & Meena K Patel, $401,000, 24 Emsley Ter

Jennifer Fortier, Noelia Rosario & Rafael E DeJesus, $340,000, 67 Washington St

Catherine Hermans-McGurren & James Hermans & Susan Cairns/Susan Hermans & Marybeth Hermans, John Paul & Barbara L Quinn, $270,000, 45 Washington St Unit 39

Wilmington Savings Fund Society FSB Tr, Andrea Martin, $250,000, 28 Currier Ave

Kelly A Cole & Kelly A Grahn, Abdeljalil Gouriny, $380,000, 20 Jefferson Rd

Lynda R Tobasco-Whitty & William F Whitty, Jean Dupervil & Rose A Pascal, $390,000, 135 East St

Lowell St LLC, Arrowpoint Methuen LLC & Spire Enterprises LLC & RL Realty Holdings LLC, $1,450,000, 80 Lowell St

Ranger Mills LP, Arrowpoint Methuen LLC & Methuen Partners MG LLC & RL Realty Holdings LLC & Anthony Arone & Jeffrey Leonard, $2,650,000, 175 Haverhill St

GP Ten LLP, Selenni Y Garcia & Josel A Carrillo, $271,300, 38 Comet Rd

Haresh & Hemlata Mehta, Herber F & Marina J Lainez, $436,800, 80 Ford St

Joseph A Leone III Est & Theresa B Leone & Celeste M Ulrich, Kevin Dang, $205,000, 45 Chistopher Dr Unit 125

Ronald Annand Jr & Ronald L Annand Jr, Premium Properties Inc, $242,500, 500 Prospect St

Wilfredo T & Margarita Laboy, Richard Bediako, $243,500, 25, 25A Oak St Units 14, A

Cynthia Kent Ness Est/Cynthia Ness Est & John A Ness, James & Guerda Milard, $330,000, 17 Bruce St

Matthew & Anne Giordano, Kathleen A & David S Wooten, $319,500, 22 Marjorie St

Deborah J Morin & Joseph C Morin & John P Morin, Remegio & Vanessa N Muganga, $420,000, 84 Currier St

Robert Isbell & Meredith A Enright, Michelle F Santarelli, $379,000, 20 Oak Knoll Rd

James Fyler, Andres Castaneda, $207,500, 37 Milk Ave

Deborah DiNardi & Albert Hynds , Melaine Batista-Ortiz & Samantha N Oliveira, $295,000, 95 Ashland Ave

William J Farrell & George P Farrell & Louis P Farrell & Joseph M Farrell, Saul Vaquerano & Carolina Ramirez, $350,000, 77 Ames St

Anthony M & Elizabeth Scavo, William Whitty & Lynda Tobasco Whitty, $479,900, 12 Sugar Pine Ln

Gaspar Investment Inc, Richard J & Darlene R Hemstreet, $380,500, 37 Meriline Ave

Katherine N Nett, Deborah A DiNardi & Albert Joseph Hynds, $172,000, 395 Merrimack St Unit 44

David S Felton, Kirk L Olsen & Stephanie L Pratt, $585,000, 6 Myrtle St

Joann Allen Aceto & Gina M Allen, Emily Bruno & Rodriguez Exilus, $505,000, 12 Capitol St

Toll MA IV LLC, Paul W & Lynette L Pappas, $700,000, 22 Pine Tree Dr Unit 17

Pinncale Builders LLC, Rose & Willie Pierre, $600,000, 6 Liams Ln

Brad T Fournier, Heather & Clyde Muka, $205,000, 28 Stevens St Unit 1

John Joseph Rodrigues III & Claire Doris Bissonnette & Claire Doris Bernier TRS & Rodrigues - Bissonnette Family Nominee Trust & John J Rodrigues III & John Rodrigues & Claire Bissonnette & Claire D Bissonnette & Amy Schafnitz TR & Bissonnette Rodrigues Irrevocable Trust & Steven Bissonnette TR & Veronica Wythe TR, Josph P & Toni Maire & Joseph P Hanton II, $455,000, 31 Harmony Ln

Sung Chae & Misook An, Viance Sosa & Rafael Tejeda, $385,000, 9 East Brook Pl

Joey Chun Cheung & Manyi Hip, America A Aleman Delorbe, $462,500, 83 Woodburn Dr

William M Wojnar, Christopher & Patricia A Marchese, $296,000, 60 Oak Hill Dr

Jeanne C & James P Dilavore, Raquel & Carlos Cruz, $339,000, 23 Oakcrest Cir

Kamal Tabatabaie-Alavi & Mahindokht Tamgidi Hosseini, James & Yahaira-Maria Frier, $520,000, 62 Sorrento Ave

NORTH ANDOVER

Kenneth F Strobel, Timothy A Giard Tr & TAG Realty Trust, $180,000, 148 Main St Unit F-441

Linda J Flannagan & John Flannagan & Timothy Flannagan & Jonelle Derby, Lisa Boyalian, $245,000, 148 Main St Unit B235

Luciano Ricci, Mark K Sullivan, $284,000, 180 Chickering Rd Unit 106C

Messina Development Co Inc, Timothy A & Megan E Pybus, $862,000, 383 Abbott St

Edward J & Deborah E Manchenton, Melanie Rokes & Paul Mogilevsky, $445,000, 58 Hewitt Ave

Mark Stein, Cynthia H Lauwers, $380,000, 521R Salem St Unit 2

Albert J & Diane M Letizio Trs & Diane M Letizio Revocable Trust of 1995, Kayla Nassar & Jessica Nassar, $515,000, 54-56 Perley Rd

Maryann Hill/Mary Ann Marcin, JPM Harvest LLC, $255,000, 3 Harvest Dr Unit 107

Ralph C Bevin & Leeann Shelton Grdn, Nancy Virgilio-Brown & Christina Elise Wallis, $222,500, 69 Prospect St Unit 2

Eramo Family Trust &Deborah A Picard Tr, Tyler Calhoun & Shannon Carbone, $708,000, 79 Lacy St

Reau Realty LLC, 100 Willow Street Realty LLC, $2,544,000, 100 Willow St

Hannah K Galvin, Cesario M Ferreira, $395,000, 26 Main St Unit 7

A & C Realty Trust II & James M Holbrook Sr Tr & Andrea M Holbrook Tr & James M Holbrook Jr Tr & Christine Frary Tr, Andover Pest Control Inc, $375,000, 633 Turnpike St

Anthony Cerra, Adam B & Megan A Sweeney, $439,000, 171 Summer St

Landmark Realty Trust & Nelson A Raust Tr, CCM Properties Group LLC, $230,000, 795 Turnpike St Units 201-204

Fred P Sammartino & Brenda C Van Der Beek, Greg & Sarah Cottone, $775,000, 231 Chestnut St

Berry/114 Company LLC, Kulwinder S & Kusam Bala Bhatti, $512,215, 4 Compass Point Unit L1

Ventura Family Realty Trust & Anna Marie Ventura Tr, Mary L Terry, $312,800, 148 Main St Unit O-103

Brenan J & Hilary McCarragher, Deborah Sapienza & Erin Romansik, $885,000, 94 Windkist Farm Rd

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